

BLACK

LINES

JAN. 1998, Vol. 2, No. 12 Free/\$2 outside Chicago EXPRESSIONS FROM BLACK GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDERED LIFE

AMISTAD

Slavery's brutality on screen, brought to life by a powerful performance by Djimon Hounsou. See page 14.

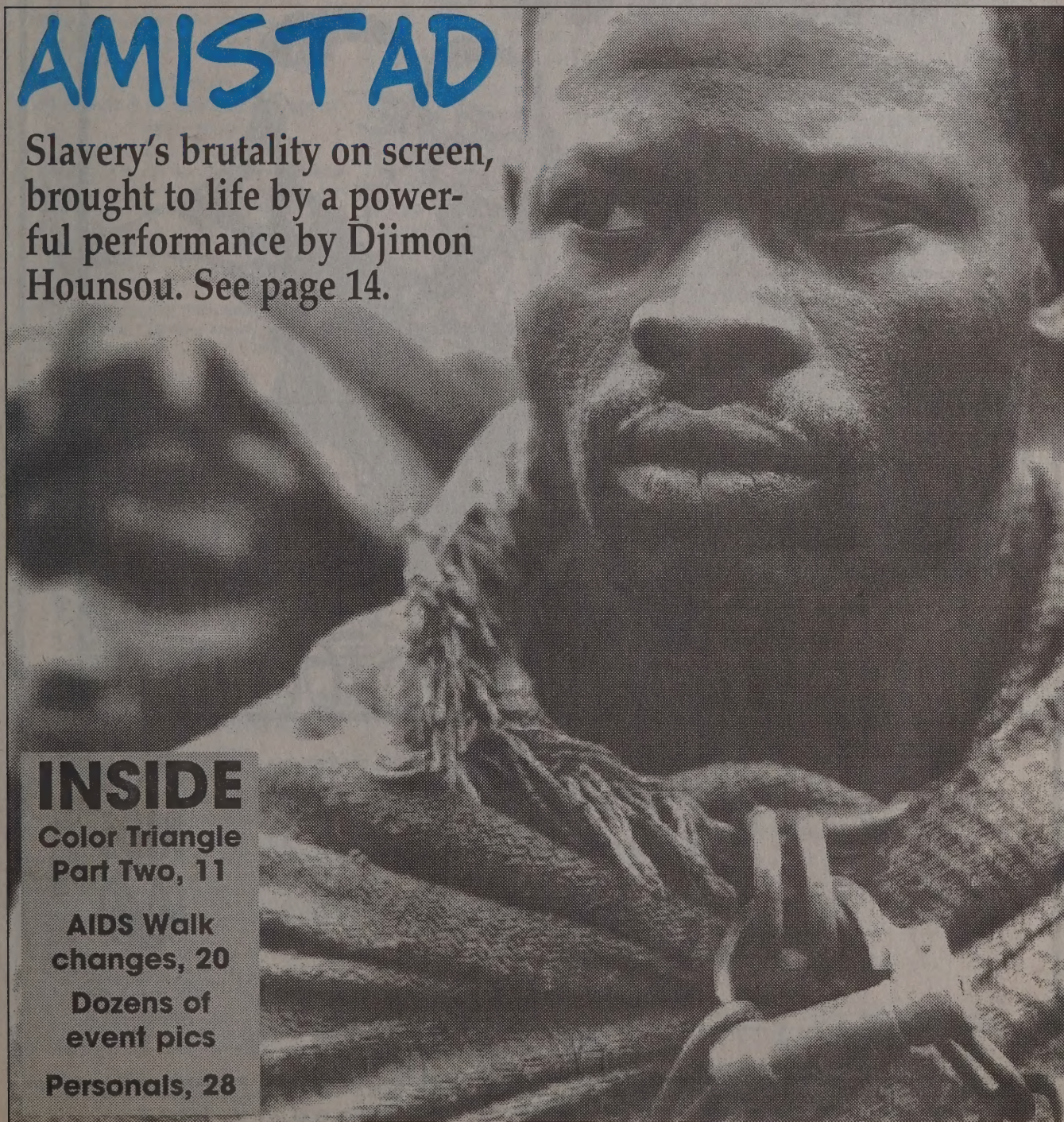
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event pics

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BLACK LINES

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January, 1998
Volume 2, Number 12

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Published by Lambda Publications, publishers of: OUTLINES, Nightlines Weekly, En La Vida, OUT! Resource Guide, CLOUT! Business Report

DEADLINES:

Editorial: 5th of each month

Advertising: the 10th

AVAILABLE LAST WED. Each MONTH

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LAMBDA PUBLICATIONS,
1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D,
CHICAGO, IL 60657 USA.

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New York Dr. Marjorie Hill (ABOVE) has been selected as the keynote speaker for the 1998 Unity Conference sponsored by Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays April 3-4. The other keynote will be gay activist Phill Wilson.



Commentaries in this issue include Donna Rose (left) on racism, page 26, and Sanford Gaylord on "Dr. Death," page 19.

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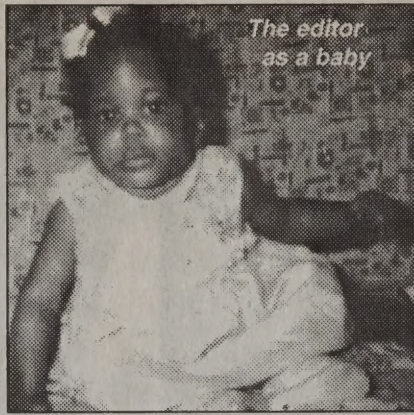
Editorial

by LaJaunessee
Jordan

I was going to write about the fine art of being happy and the importance of laughter—something nice to start the new year off right, but I had a truly fucked up day. Almost everything that could go wrong did. I won't go into details because I don't want a pity party. And besides, I can't put all of my stuff out there. I've done what I do best—procrastinate. And the printer is breathing down my back—deadline time. So, it doesn't matter how happy I am tomorrow. I must produce today. Do I write on next month's topic early? Do I come up with a new one? Will I survive the test of a true writer and forge on?

I think about my license plate "LAF NOW 2." I got it in an attempt to help myself and others when the shit ain't right. And it ain't right. Okay, everybody that's been telling me how much you like my writing, send me some positive energy, right about now.

Once I went to a friend's house and she answered the door crying. When I asked what was wrong, she said, "I dropped my liver!" as the tears flowed even more. I love liver, myself, but if I dropped it I'd probably just yell a few expletives and be done with it. It didn't take book sense to know



The editor
as a baby

that something much greater than liver caused her eyes to become open fire hydrants. After talking through things and coming up with some workable solutions, I managed to make her laugh until the hydrants worked for another more pleasant reason.

I thought about the endorphins that are released during laughter—those things that cause morphine-like effects—a natural high. Endorphins are great. Think about how you

feel after a good thigh-slapping laugh. You think you're done and then it just starts itself up again and again and again. And it sometimes ends with an orgasmic, "Ohhhhhhhhh!" Now that's a laugh. Know what I mean, jelly-bean. I once read that every time you take the stairs, you add four seconds to your life. I wonder how much a good laugh adds.

In going through occasional peaks and frequent valleys with a friend who was told she would not live very long, I've thought about those sometimes asked questions: "If you only had a week to live where would you be? Who would you be with? What would you do?" The last time I asked myself those questions, there was only one thing that I would have done differently

than I had done in the previous week. And in looking at the big picture, it was relatively minor. One thing that I did was laugh a lot and help others laugh a lot. And Blanche, my sixth grade teacher whom we called by her first name, behind her back, told me that my class clown days would only adversely affect my life. She didn't know that they were my dress rehearsal for life and that without those days, curtain calls like today might find me in an emotional place that I don't want to be.

I try to surround myself with people who make me feel like that line in a Luther song, "Whatever you're going through, I can make it better." And I'd like to think that those close to me are singing, "Whatever I'm going through, you can make it better."

New Year' cheers to Blanche, endorphins and all BLACKLINES readers. Love ya. Peace.

LETTERS

College networking

Thank you for your work to date and the work that you will do in the future for the good of all lesbians. I am writing you to ask if you are doing anything to organize on traditionally African-American campuses. Specifically, I am thinking of the historically Black Tuskegee University. I know that many of our leaders have been developed at these institutions in the past. However, we have a seri-

ous problem of homophobia and heterosexism on these campuses that is coupled with an almost eerie lack of accountability on the part of the university's officials. As a result, lesbian students are harassed in ways that are

far less likely to occur on other campuses. There is a student on Tuskegee's campus now who is has attempted to organize activities that could counteract some of the heterosexist diatribe that she encounters everyday. She has few if any resources and is growing extremely tired. Isn't there something that the Forum [the National Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum] can do to assist or support students, such as this young woman, on historically Black campuses. I am certain that the effect of support their efforts will have far-reaching implications for work that is being done in the larger Black community and in America at large to fight heterosexism and homophobia.

I have been a mentor to this young woman; she has watched and helped me struggle in Cleveland against homophobia in the Black community. Now she needs the support of other Black folks who can help her leverage change in the little black college town of Tuskegee,

Alabama. My question is will the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum help her so she won't give up?

—An internet reader

Contact the National Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum at (202) 483-6786.

The Committee

We are a Chicago-based organization of Gays and Lesbians of Color who have come together for empowerment through the political process; we are in our third year of existence. Our goal is to provide a platform and voice for Gays and Lesbians of Color to express their common goals and concerns to the Chicago-area community and governmental officials, both elected and appointed. Our purpose is to disseminate information, express opinions and influence policy on issues that directly and indirectly affect Gays and Lesbians of Color as well as Chicago as a whole.

[Recently], I was elected Board president of the

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LETTERS from 4

Committee. I take on this challenge with an additional challenge of creating a workforce with the Committee. One made up of our Brothers and Sisters that has not been involved in the movement. We will be trained in grass-roots organizing of knowing how to knock on doors and pound the sidewalk for the sole benefit of ensuring that our message is heard. Very similar to that of the traditional army of precinct workers with the exception being this will be our army, with the intention of representing the entire community of Gays and Lesbians of Color.

Now, I realize in the past there has been dissension, finger pointing, and name calling amongst agencies and individuals within our community. I ask each of you to make peace and we will work together in this movement. We cannot make good solid progress when we fight amongst ourselves. Although it is true the city has made good over the last over the last year with a Domestic Partnership Ordinance, millions for North Halsted, however, our roots are deep, very deep in this city of "Big Shoulders" and our struggle has not been without pain. If we do not fight together for our piece of the pie within this city no one else will fight for us.

I extend my hand to you in friendship and peace and ask that we forgive each other of past mistakes and in the words of Saint Paul "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good rebuke, if there be any excellence in anything worthy of praise let your mind dwell on these things."

I look forward to good organizing from the Rocks to Austin, from K-Town to Englewood, from Chatham to Humboldt Park, from Pilsen to Argyle Street and beyond. It is the good and respectful dialogue from you that will keep me motivated on my tour with the Committee.

Loyalty does not cringe under assault; let's stay strong.

Lowry S. Taylor

President, The Committee

USA TODAY and Gays

The following letter is in response to Gwen Daye Richardson's Commentary in the Oct. 17 edition of USA TODAY newspaper.

Gwen Daye Richardson is angry. Her ire stems from Ellen DeGeneres' analogy between Blacks and lesbian/gay people.

During my days of gay/lesbian activism I also used this analogy, but after a time I also became angry with our use of this analogy. After all it doesn't express the torture of the 12/13-year-old gay/lesbian who has to sit at the dinner table and listen to their father condemn the 'sissy' boy down the street and fume about why the 'sissy' boy's father doesn't straighten him out. I suspect Richardson's parents probably did everything in their power to be supportive and counter society's false images of Black's by telling her that she was worthwhile.

Nor does the Black/gay analogy reflect the further isolation of being taken to church to hear "God's" representative's condemnation of lesbians/gays to hell's eternal fire. Rather for Blacks the church became one of their main sources for comfort and a place for organizing.

Also, this analogy does not expose the anguish of Alan Turing, hailed as a hero for almost single-handedly breaking the "unbreakable" Nazi enigma code thus allowing the British to identify u-boat locations and save thousands of civilian and military lives. Later when identified as homosexual, he was condemned to mental institution and injected with chemicals and hormones in attempt to "cure" him. He later committed suicide while trying to deal with the side effects of this treatment.

Richardson's "instructions" re: Black images on TV and in the movies is correct in fact. However, she neglects the fact

that until recently lesbians and gays were usually not represented, and when there was a lesbian or gay character it was deriguer they be murdered or commit suicide by the time "THE END" appeared.

Richardson is also correct in observing that gays and lesbians were not "enslaved or denied the right to vote" as group. But we were "enslaved" by isolation and denial of support or comfort by our 'brothers and sisters.' Also it is not possible to vote when you are institutionalized and drugged or 'shocked' to correct you.

Richardson's objections seem to revolve around the 'issue' of choice. While I will grant that there are bisexuals who may have varying degrees of choice in how they express their sexuality, I do know that I and 95% of the lesbians and gays I have known did not have a choice. As you can see from this letter I am a somewhat intelligent individual, why would I choose to face discrimination/oppression and possibly being ostracized from life long family and friends if I could just as easily chosen to live the 'American dream' of getting married, raising 2.4 children, having a dog, and living in the suburbs?

I am glad that Richardson seeks the advice and input from others as indicated by her quote from Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King. But may I suggest she enlarge her circle of advisors to include such individuals as civil rights leader Coretta Scott King, Dr. King's wife, and Rev. Jesse Jackson. I believe they'll offer 'slightly' different perspectives. While she is speaking to them she might ask them to relate the life story of Bayard Rustin, noted civil-rights leader.

Finally, Richardson concludes her commentary with: Gays/Lesbians ... "have no right to stand on the shoulders of African-Americans when making demands." I guess she views DeGeneres' analogy as a put down to the civil-rights movement in general. Rather I

think DeGeneres' analogy further validates that discrimination/oppression is always wrong whether it is practiced against lesbians/ gays, Blacks, women, Jews, Muslims or in places like Hollywood, Germany, Algeria, or Bosnia.

Vernon E. Huls, Chicago

Labels & Masks

I read "On Dying Genius" and "Eau de Negres" on your web site and just wanted to share my feelings on the two. I'm Caucasian, been intimately involved with Black men for 20 years or more and feel the aforementioned labels are meaningless if you don't identify with them (i.e., "Caucasian," "Black."). They keep us polarized, labeled, imprisoned, etc, just like "gay." I really don't identify with any labels any more. They're dangerous. Use them instead as masks. There's power and liabilities in any mask so change them regularly. Just don't identify with the mask. We wear many masks. Do the dance of the masks and then realize your power. Yes identities have real effects and create limitations. Life has limitations. Masks can be worn and discarded or stored for later use.

Speak from the heart, speak your truth. Live outside the social myth and thereby shatter it. Let the others find their myths shattered by life itself and by your dancing. Change is effected by experience only. Intellect has no power in this arena. We're here to play. (I've seen my partner die—I do not want to deny the ordeals.)

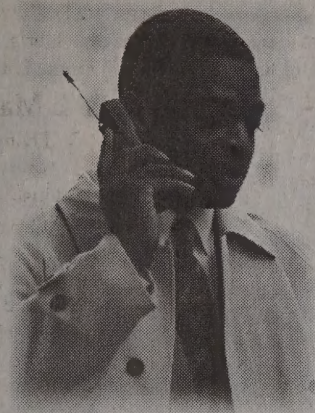
I see the need for communication filled with a fire which destroys literature, and shatters the minds of all who read the works. Don't write from an identity, write from the mask you're wearing. Push readers towards experience, not more reading. Push them from the word to action or make the word become action. I like your site because it pushed me to this action and will continue to see what you're putting out.

—An internet fan

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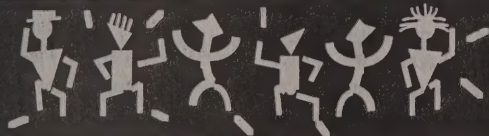
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In Brief

Rustin Awards Feb. 6

The 1998 Bayard Rustin Awards, sponsored by the Greater Chicago Committee, will be Friday, Feb. 6 at the DuSable Museum of African American History. Call (312) 670-9660 for balloting info.

Board of Directors Awards will be given to **Alden Bell, A Real Read, Sidney Thomas, and Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.**

Balloting is taking place for several awards, including Nightspot of the year, DJ of the Year, Entertainer of the Year, Party, and much more.

Unity conference set

The 1998 Unity Conference, sponsored by Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays, will be held on April 3 & 4. Keynote speakers will be **Dr. Marjorie Hill** and **Phill Wilson**.

Hill is a psychologist and assistant vice president for special populations at the New York City Health and Hospital Corp, the nation's largest public health network. She is the former director of the N.Y. City Mayor's Office for Lesbian and Gay Issues. She negotiated the inclusion of a lesbian and gay contingent in their St. Patrick's Day Parade and Dinkins marched with the group.

Wilson is an activist and is director of public policy for AIDS Project Los Angeles. He is co-founder and former co-chair of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum.

Call (312) 409-4917.

Political news

The Chicago Green Party announced their intent to file a lawsuit against the Illinois Board of Elections in opposition to the regulations that require **Marc Loveless**, the Green Party candidate for the 17th Illinois Senate seat, to gather nearly four times more signatures to be a candidate than any of the other major party political candidates. Loveless is a Black, gay man and was elected

Committeeman of the Harold Washington Party in 1996.

Houston elected its first Black mayor last month, **Lee Patrick Brown**. In the same election, **Annise Parker** became the first openly gay person elected in Houston, to the City Council.

AIDS on the Radio

WVON 1450 AM is airing a radio talk show, "A Message of Hope in This Time of AIDS." The program runs Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. It issues a challenge to churches to become more active in the fight against AIDS.

There is also a toll-free hotline (888-625-6243) that encourages listeners to call for prayer, information and referrals. The program is also broadcast in Detroit on WCHB 1200 AM on Saturdays at 6:30 p.m.

Tutu meets gay leader

A meeting of historic significance to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities took place Dec. 12, as two internationally recognized human-rights activists met in Johannesburg, South Africa. The **Rev. Troy D. Perry**, moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), met with Nobel Peace Prize winner **Archbishop Desmond Tutu** for a wide-ranging discussion of human-rights issues. Others at this historic meeting included the archbishop's wife, Leah; Rev. Perry's spouse, Phillip DeBlieck; and the Rev. Andre Muller, UFMCC area coordinator for South Africa.

Perry expressed thanks to Archbishop Tutu for his work to include protections on the basis

of sexual orientation in the new South African constitution. Both Archbishop Tutu and Reverend Perry discussed the roles that religion plays in the ongoing debates around sexual orientation. Tutu noted that religious fundamentalists have questioned the right of the government to add sexual orientation to the South African Constitution and want simple answers to life's hard questions. "Quoting the Bible is not enough. ... Parents must love their children," he said. "It is a shame that fathers still teach their sons not to cry as though that would make them seem like a woman. Fathers teach their sons not to have real feelings. Every human being should rejoice and celebrate both our masculine and feminine sides."

Tutu discussed his work as chair of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which ends in June. Tutu will then become a visiting professor at Emory University in Atlanta.

AIDS up in Africa

Associated Press reports that the United Nations is saying that more than 30 million people are living with HIV, and about 16,000 new people are infected every day.

AP reported: "The report paints a devastating picture of AIDS-ravaged sub-Saharan Africa, with 7.4 percent of people ages 15 to 49 thought to be infected. Among the stark African news, the report said: The number of HIV-infected people in Botswana has doubled over the past five years, to 25 percent to 30 percent of the

Award winner

Cornelius Wilson, 40, of Detroit, was among this year's four winners of the Stonewall Awards, which grant \$25,000 each to activists working on lesbian issues. Wilson founded Men of Color, a support group for Black gay men coping with AIDS.



adult population. AIDS has wiped out gains in life expectancy, which had risen from under 43 years in 1955 to 61 years in 1990. One in five adults in Zimbabwe was HIV-positive in 1996, and in one town with a large population of migrant workers, seven of 10 pregnant women were HIV-positive in 1995. Twenty-five percent more infants are dying in Zambia and Zimbabwe than would be the case if there were no HIV. AIDS is expected to push Zimbabwe's infant mortality rate up 138 percent by 2010."

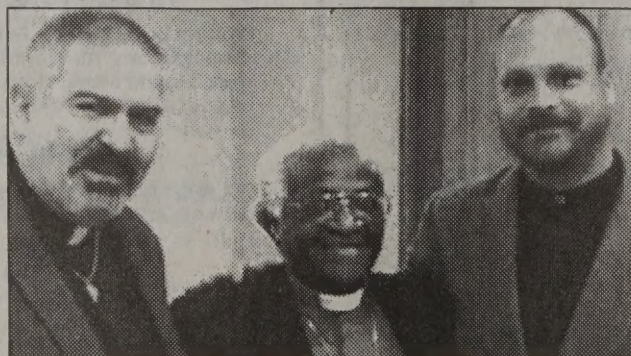
Race, Clinton & gays

The National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum took part in a meeting with President Clinton, and pushed the Administration for greater inclusion of African-American gays and lesbians and other gays and lesbians of color in the President's Initiative on Race.

Mandy Carter, Field Director for the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, was originally asked to participate in the discussion with the President, which took place at a small dinner meeting in D.C. Dec. 1. Carter was unable to attend the meeting, and **Keith Boykin**, Executive Director of the Forum, represented the organization.

The President signaled his understanding of its importance by asking Boykin to submit a list of names for consideration.

Boykin also took part in the recent historic White House Conference on Hate Crimes.



Rev. Troy D. Perry, Desmond Tutu, and Phillip R. DeBlieck

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Women & AIDS: Qs & As

Text and Photos by Israel Wright

Illinois Women Preventing AIDS was a one-day conference presented by the Chicago Department of Health, Illinois HIV Health Fraud Task Force and South Side Help Center Dec. 8. The mission was to empower and educate women and connect them with appropriate support services. It was targeted to all women, including those living with HIV/ AIDS, young women and lesbian and bisexual women.

Question 1: What do you think of the conference? Question 2: What do you expect to happen after the conference?

Betty Smith — Executive Director, South Side Help Center

1. Basically I think the conference has been a wonderful success. We've have had over 225 participants: African-American women, women of color who have come out to receive empowering messages in how to prevent HIV/AIDS. It's just been wonderful. I mean there is this spirit of camaraderie among the women, there's an electrical charge if you will within the group and people are just having a real good time. 2. Well what I hope will happen is that women who come here today will be empowered to go out and spread the word on HIV preventions. As you know, women are the fastest growing population of people who are affected by HIV/AIDS. HIV is increasing among women of color, in particular African-American women. And so what we want to do here today is to empower women to be able to make positive health choices in regard to HIV prevention.

Patricia Mickey — A Real Read performer, after attending a workshop, "Cultural Sensitivity and Social Responsibility"

A better understanding of AIDS/HIV. My brother has AIDS and it's just a subject that my family and I have never really spoken about, and I've never really gone out and gathered like a whole lot of information. And so just what I've gotten from this conference alone, it's just great. One woman inside this workshop made the comment in Salt 'n' Pepper's song, they're talking about HIV and this guy passing away. She made the comment that not everyone that has HIV develops AIDS. Everybody thinks that HIV/AIDS basically go hand in hand and there is no separation of the two. Just because you have AIDS/HIV does not mean that you are automatically doomed to die. I knew that but just to hear it out loud,

wow it's just a statement coming from such a young person.

Odessa White — Program Coordinator for Teen Parent Services, a program under the Department of Human Services

[This is] one of the best conferences I have ever been to, in terms of cost—it did not charge an outrageous fee, but the content is excellent. I can't even tell you—I am 54 years old, but I have been to many conferences in my lifetime which deal with AIDS and other social issues, but this conference is wonderful. Every workshop has been just excellent. Even the keynote speaker was excellent. Triple, triple she was wonderful. There's a spirit here that is just so genuine I just can't even express it. I have been to quite a few conferences out of state and into Illinois, but this is one of the best I believe.

I think next year it could be larger, and we could have more exposure, because I think there are a lot of people here, but it's not nearly enough, because the AIDS issue is much larger than what we have here. What I also liked about the conference is its multicultural, it crosses all lives, all ages and I think that's a wonderful thing, because that is exactly what AIDS does.

Larry Smith — Chicago Outreach Intervention Project

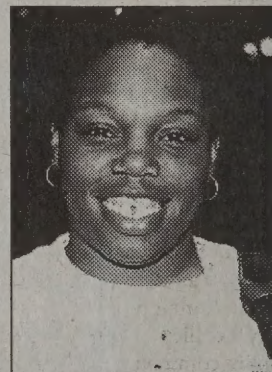
I think the workshop is very multicultural. I think it covered a wide range of information for a very diverse population. So I think that the workshop is going very well, making sure that it covers every aspect that deals with healthcare in every target population possible. So I think that it is something that's going to continue to be going very well. Hopefully they will have it again.

It's no doubt that most of the agencies here, and the very fact that this organization which is about women of prevention, have done a very good job on stressing the networking aspect of it. So I think that people have been exchanging business cards, people are going to interact afterwards, new people will probably be added on to their committees. They are doing a lot of things with the young people, too, so that's what I was very pleased about.

Ed Snelligan — COIP UIC

It's really relevant. It's a lot of different relevant issues. A lot good workshops, networking, a lot of health agencies. It's good that we can interlink with our agency. Networking is very good.

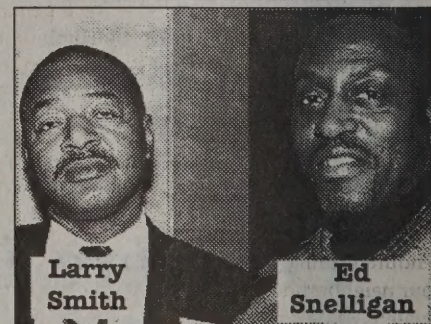
Betty Smith



Patricia Mickey



Odessa White



Larry Smith

Ed Snelligan



Also at the conference, Michelle Mascaro (AIDS Foundation of Chicago) and Tonya Schaffer (of the Chicago Dept. of Health).

Color Triangle: Words into Action

by Robert Schultz

The Color Triangle, an ongoing dialogue examining racism in the lesbian/gay/trans community, continued with a Dec. 13 meeting attended by more than 100 people. Participants included Color Triangle veterans and virgins. Organizers of the event allowed for more discussion than at the first session.

The first exercise at Color Triangle II: A different look at Racism in our Community, was an ice breaker. This gave audience members an opportunity to discover and share commonalities. Surprisingly, I could more quickly identify common interests with the transgender activist who sat next to me than the young Hispanic man I paired with next.

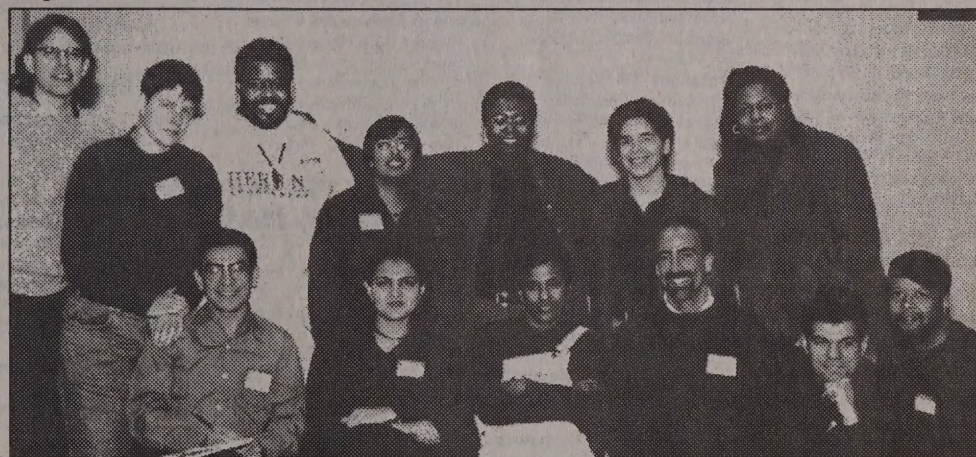
Participants then divided into smaller groups. Workshop leaders allowed about an hour to respond to a group of prepared questions about racism. Workshop leaders instructed participants to base their comments on their experiences.

In my small group I heard a story that paralleled my family's experience in suburban Chicago. A South Asian woman related a tale of inhospitality that continued over the years in suburban Chicago. This South Asian woman and I endured similar reactions from our neighborhood in a predominantly white community. These parallel experiences as young people of color struggling to find a place in a predominantly white community were separated by ten years based on my guess of our apparent ages.

Wisely, the Color Triangle organizers are planning additional activities for the community. Four action areas were

identified: community dinners, leadership development, a community code of non-discrimination, and developing allies among white anti-racist individuals. A group is being organized around each of these concerns. Each of these action groups have planning meetings which will be announced.

For more information about the particulars of these meet-



ings, watch these pages. The next general Color Triangle Community Meeting is planned for April 18, 1998. Call (773) 973-3999.

"Color Triangle II: A Different Look at Racism in our Community; the discussion continues ... the action begins!" was held at Harold Washington Library. It was sponsored by the Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Gay & Lesbian Issues; Lesbian/gay Radio; and OUTLINES/ NIGHTLINES/ BLACKLINES/EN LA VIDA. Cosponsors included Affinity, Association of Latin Men in Action, Amigas Latinas, Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays, Clubhouse Productions, Horizons Community Services, Howard Brown Health Center, Khuli Zaban and Sidetrack.



ABOVE: Participants in one of the small-group discussions. BELOW: Color Triangle II organizers and planning committee members. Photos by Israel Wright

Local Actor Shines in 'Bard'

by Robert Schultz

Even for the most Afrocentric among us, it's inescapable that the English language is part of our heritage. It's logical, therefore, for Darryl Maximilian Robinson, of the Excaliber Shakespeare Company, to use William Shakespeare, one of the giants of literature, as his source material in his *A Bit of the Bard*.

A Bit of the Bard successfully displays Robinson's talents as a playwright and actor. *A Bit of the Bard* was one of two plays featured in a solo performance series which completed a run in December at Sheffield's Wine and Beer Garden. *A Child's Christmas in Wales* by Dylan Thomas, the Welsh poet, was also performed. *A Bit of the Bard* features the whimsical musings of 19th century aristocratic Black man who finds himself transported to the modern world.

Solo performance is especially daunting because there are no others upon whom a performer can rely. These two chamber plays recalled the Globe Theater of Shakespeare's day where the distance between performer and audience was physically narrow, and where rowdy hecklers could be present in the audience. There was an intimacy established between Robinson and audience, and Robinson's composure was undisturbed. His strong performance shows that it is worth one's time to seek out the Black artists' contributions to Chicago's vibrant cultural scene.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, Dec. 30

Cotton Club Tues/Sun nights "Showdance," open mic competition, dancing after. 1710 S Michigan. (312) 341-9787.

Horizons plans to maintain Paris' Pride Day tradition with the "It's a Woman Thing" dance after the Parade June 28, to benefit HCS women's programs. Horizons is now seeking volunteers to help plan the event: (773) 472-6469.

Wed., Dec. 31

Berlin New Yr's Eve Disco Dance Party—"In with the New!" DJ Mark Kelly & guests.

Big Chicks New Year's Eve Party: whoop it up with free champagne, treats, favors, DJ, no cover. (773) 728-5511.

Cell Block New Year's Eve Party. (773) 665-8064.

Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays UNITY IV: Renaissance & Renewal: Celebrating Ourselves Deadline for workshop & institute proposals.: potential topics include advocacy/activism, diversit (ableism, sexism, racism, etc), bi/transphobia, employment, parenting/family, mental/physical health, writing clinics, interracial relations, domestic partnership, substance/physical abuse, caregivers, HIV/AIDS, coming out. Workshops are 90 mins long. CBLG also seeks facilitators for men's and women's sexuality conference institutes—the 2 1/2 hr institutes run concurrently. Proposals & performing arts solicitations to CC Carter (773) 375-7446; email Ccarter033@aol.com. Conference celebrates 5 years of Af-Am lesbian/gay/trans community-building. Apr 3-4 at the Holiday Inn Chicago City Centre, 300 E Ohio. Registration materials available Jan 15. General info CBLG hotline (312) 409-4917

Chicago Hilton & Towers and WNUA 95.5 New Year's Eve Celebration. (312) 431-6913.

Club Escape New Year's Eve Celebration, 10p-2a, food, fun and complimentary champagne, cover \$10, music by house DJ Tyrone Mixx. 1530 E. 75th St.

Club Intimus New Yr's Eve Party. Door raffles—color TV, CD player, answering machine, cordless phone. Party favors, hot hors d'oeuvres, and of course champagne toast. 9pm-4am, \$15 ahead, \$20 at door; 1-drink min. requ only tonight. Advance tix info (312) 901-1703. 312 W Randolph.

Fusion The Crystal Ball for New Yr's Eve! See the Past end...as the Future begins, with mystical DJ Mark Vallese, Joe Gillan lights, Brad Erickson & Eddie Janett video. (773) 975-6622.

Girlbar New Yr's Party features champagne toast at midnight, party favors. \$10. 2625 N Halsted. (773) 871-4210.

LesBiGay Radio New Yr's Eve Extravaganza dyke comic Lea DeLaRia, rocks with Vanessa Davis Band, dances with Valerie James. 8pm, \$65 (21 & over only). Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N Southport. Tix 1-888-GO-OUT-GAY

Rainbow Room New Yr's Eve party features appetizers, champagne toast, party favors. Open 8pm, \$10 adv/\$15 at door. (773) 271-4378.

Rhumba Open for New Yr's Eve celebrating—with Blue Man Group tix give-aways thru the end of 97! 3631 N Halsted. (773) 975-2345.

Sober New Yr's Eve Dance Be cool and help raise funds for the New Town Alano Club. 8pm-1am, \$12. At 2nd Unitarian, 656 W Barry.

Temptations New Yr's Eve 1997 bash features Similar Features performing live, champagne at midnight, complimentary appetizers, party favors, balloon drop, & a DJ—all hosted by Steve Miller-as "Helen." \$20. 10235 Grand, Franklin Park. (847) 455-0008.

Thursday, Jan. 1

Girlbar Meltdown every Thurs—\$1 drafts. DJ Jim Lewis. 2625 Halsted. (773) 871-4210.

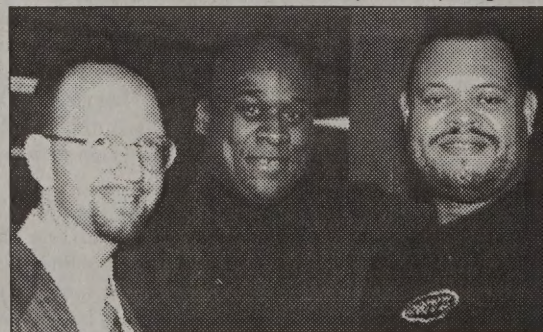
Friday, Jan. 2

Club Intimus 25 & older parties have been cancelled until further notice. 312 W Randolph. Info (312) 1703.

Kindred Hearts Lesbians After 40: women's basketball at NU, vs Michigan. 6:45pm. Meet near concession stand in McGaw Hall. (847) 604-0913.

Musical Box Latin Boys Go To Hell, hot "send-up of gay latino angst & passion," (773) 871-6604.

Saturday, Jan. 3



Jeffrey Smith, Jon Dallas and Israel Wright at the Onyx, Leathermen of color day at Church of the Open Door. Different community groups take turns serving dinner at the Sunday services at Open Door (call 773-778-3030, 60th & Albany).

Brown Elephant resale shop opens new, 2nd location at 3939 N Ashland. (773) 549-5943.

Chicago Smelts Swimming Classes for non-swimmers & beginners, plus stroke technique clinic. (312) 409-4974.

Club Intimus 1st party of 1998! 312 W Randolph. Info (312) 901-1703.

Rainbow Room Farewell 1997 Masquerade Ball—come as you are...or as someone else! DJ & dancing, food, raffles, costume contest. 8pm-3am, \$5 (\$8 couple). 4530 N Lincoln. (773) 271-4378.

Sunday, Jan. 4

Cotton Club Tues/Sun nights "Showdance," open mic talent competition, dancing after the show. 1710 S Michigan. (312) 341-9787.

Monday, Jan. 5

Lesbian Community Cancer Project (LCCP) On-going open support group for lesbians & other women living with cancer & cancer histories, and caregivers: this week's topic, "Relaxation Skills," includes demos. 1st Mon, 7-9pm, free, prof facilitated. (773) 561-4662.

Tuesday, Jan. 6

Berlin hosts Horizons Tag-Of-Rama follow-up event. Info (773) 472-6469 x257.

Cotton Club Tues/Sun nights "Showdance," open mic talent competition, dancing after the show. 1710 S Michigan. (312) 341-9787.

Imani Umoja 1st meeting of discussion group for gay Af-Am men, to give each other love & support, to discuss lives, loves & brotherhood, to network. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays. 6:30pm. At Grand Boulevard Clinic, Sinai Family Health Center, 5401 S. Wentworth in Grand Boulevard Plaza. Info (773) 907-8993.

Wed., Jan. 7

Bailiwick Arts Center presents Oscar Wilde's classic comedy, *The Importance of Being*

Earnest, starring Chi-comic Paula Killen as Jack Worthing, (773) 883-1090.

Berlin Women's Obsession Night. (773) 348-4975.

Guild Complex 6th Annual Musicality of Poetry Festival: today featuring Stone of Ulele and Inka Alasade—poets, perform with the one-man band! Cross-cultural multi-media fest runs Wednesdays thru February, 7:30pm (plus Fri/Sat special events), \$7 (\$5 students, \$3 open mic readers). At Chopin Theater, 1543 W Division. Info Michael Warr (773) 278-2210.

In The Life (PBS tv-channel 11) Dec/Jan episode looks back at 1997, the "year that was" for American lesbians. The queer camera roams from Ellen DeGeneres' living room to Cunanan's haunts in So. Beach, Fla., also looking at issues from sex and AIDS to the Promise Keepers, Oscar Wilde's 1895 trials & Nazi persecutions—all part of gay history. Features bio of Dr Kate O'Hanlan, 97 Theater & Media 11pm.

Thursday, Jan. 8

Affinity black lesbian/bi women's discussion group meets 7-8:30pm. Info, location, topic (312) 409-7604.

Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans of America Jay Lazar and James Zakakis, American Express attorneys speak on financial and legal affairs affecting gays and lesbians, at GLBVA monthly meeting. 7pm. Ann Sather's Restaurant, 929 W Belmont. (773) 752-0058.

House of Blues Elvis Birthday Spectacular. 8pm, \$12. (312) 923-2023.

Imani Umoja, new bimonthly discussion group for southside Af-Am gay/bi men will provide peer support re sexuality & risk behaviors, will include street/community outreach. Refreshments; pkg available. Begins tonight, 6:30-8:30pm, at Grand Boulevard Family Health Center, 5401 S. Wentworth. Coordinator Preston L Shumaker (773) 907-8993; website www.outwire.net/imani.

Lyric Opera of Chicago Amistad student matinee. 1pm sold out; but also Jan 14, \$5-14. (312) 332-2244 x409.

Friday, Jan. 9

Gerber/Hart Library & Archives new gay/lesbian film discussion group forms. tonight, with screening & discussion of *Maurice*. "Celluloid Outings" meets 2nd Fridays, 7pm-10pm. (773) 883-3003. 3352 N Paulina.

Horizons lesbian/gay/trans mental health series continues: Bonnie Burg, LCSW addresses question, "Gay, Lesbian & Straight Therapists: Does Sexual Identity Matter?" 961 W Montana. (773) 472-6469.

Kindred Hearts Cooking Demo:

(847) 604-0913.

Saturday, Jan. 10

Annual Capricorn Party Hosted by Toni Armstrong Jr. and Tracy Baim, along with dozens of other Capricorn lesbians, 5210 N. Wayne. BYOB, free, hundreds of lesbians!

Northwestern Diocese of the Independent Holy Catholic Church Most Rev James Alan Wilkowski ordains the diocese's very 1st deacons, (773) 721-5383 or 384-4209.

Sunday, Jan. 11

Kindred Hearts Lesbians After 40: 2nd annual Volunteer Recognition Lunch, "on the house." 1pm. 2214 Ridge, Evanston. Info (847) 604-0913. All women welcome.

Monday, Jan. 12

Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues (ACGLI) planning for transgendered forum continues; DP benefits for CTA, CHA & CPS employees. 6:30-8pm. 510 N Peshtigo Ct, 6th flr. (312) 744-7911.

Chicago Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Big Chicks. Cash bar & light hors d'oeuvres 6:30-8:30pm, free to members and the public. Election results will be announced (ballots accepted that eve), 1998 Pride Dollars Card kick-off, free cards to attendees! 5024 N Sheridan. Info 1-888-GL-CHAMBER.

Human Relations Foundation of Chicago, in partnership with Chicago Sinfonietta, hosts 1st in series of dinner conversations on "Race and the Arts," beginning with 5:30pm dinner at Russian Tea Time, 77 E Adams, followed by 7:30pm Sinfonietta concert, dir by Paul Freeman, in Symphony Center at Orchestra Hall, 220 S Michigan. \$50 total, reservations requ by Dec 31. Tix (312) 456-7745 x129.

North Lakeside Cultural Center presents famed Chicago blues/classical musician/composer/singer/songwriter Corky Siegel, teaching a Musical Master Class in Microdynamics (the study of variation in sound intensity). Meets Jan 12, 14, & 16; \$100 inclusive (\$90 members). Class size limited to 25; reservations Nicki Modaber (847) 869-4019. At NLCC, 6219 N Sheridan.

Tuesday, Jan. 13

Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues (ACGLI) Hall of Fame Committee meets: (312) 744-7911.

Gerber/Hart Library & Archives discussion of Urvasi Vaid's *Virtual Equality*, 7:30pm, free. 3352 N. Paulina. (773) 728-5119.

Wed., Jan. 14

Guild Complex 6th Annual Musicality of Poetry Festival: today featuring "Pleasure Trip

with Leddi Garcia & DJ Mark Grant: A night of bilingual poetry & music." Cross-cultural multi-media fest runs Wednesdays thru February, 7:30pm (plus Fri/Sat special events), \$7 (\$5 students, \$3 open mic readers). At Chopin Theater, 1543 W Division. (773) 278-2210.

Lyric Opera of Chicago *Amistad* backstage tours. (312) 332-2244 x222.

Trowbridge Guitar Studio Structured Afro-Cuban drum jam led by percussionist Lisa Ziernann welcomes beginners to advanced drummers. Bring drum if possible; 2nd Wed. If 7:30-9pm, \$15. 1748 W Balmoral. (773) 334-3214.

Thursday, Jan. 15

About Face Theatre presents season-opening, Chicago premiere of Naomi Wallace's prize-winning *In the Heart of America*, (312) 409-4863.

Women & Children First noted feminist scholar Dr. Phyllis Chesler, whose new book, *Letters to a Young Feminist* challenges us to reclaim the "f-word" ("feminist," naturally) for ourselves. (773) 769-9299. 5233 N Clark.

Saturday, Jan. 17

Affinity black lesbian/bi 40+ women's discussion group meets 4-6pm. Info, location, topic (773) 667-7606.

Lesbian Community Cancer Project 7th annual Coming Out Against Cancer Benefit gala: This year's honorees are Dr. Vesna Skul of RushCenter for Women's Medicine, and Nancy Lanoue and Sarah Ludden of 1000 Waves. Main event 8pm-midnight includes buffet, live music, dancing, silent auction, cash bar \$45 (\$55 at door). Champagne reception, special entertainment & awards presentation 6:30-8pm, \$100 (includes dinner-dance). The Jennifer Landfield Jazz Ensemble, Girlfunk and Gal-O-Rama perform. Tix available from Women & Children 1st, Unabridged, 57th St Books, Afrocentric Bookstore, 1000 Waves Spa, Prairie Moon (Arlington Hts), & Pride Agenda (Oak Pk). Gala held at South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 So. Shore Dr. Info (773) 561-4662.

Sunday, Jan. 18

Museum of Science & Industry Black Creativity 1998 shines spotlight on "Real to Reel: African Americans in Film," a historic look at Af-Am contributions from Oscar Michieux to Spike Lee & more, thru March 1. Info (773) 684-1414 or go to www.msichicago.org. 57th & LSD.

Monday, Jan. 19

Windy City Gay Naturists MLK Holiday Weekend concludes with Brunch. 10:30am, free. Info (312) 494-2654.

Women & Children First Teachers' Sale Day to honor MLK holiday. K-12 teachers get 20% off kids books. Stock up for Black History Month (Feb) & Women's History Month (March). (Bring school's tax-exempt # if needed). Info (773) 769-9299. 5233 N Clark.

Tuesday, Jan. 20

Imani Umoja discussion group for gay Af-Am men, to give each other love & support, to discuss lives, loves & brotherhood, to network. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays. 6:30pm. At Grand Boulevard Clinic, Sinai Family Health Center, 5401 S. Wentworth in Grand Boulevard Plaza. Info (773) 907-8993.

Wednesday, Jan. 21

Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues (ACGLI) Full Council Meets 6:30-8pm. RSVP (312) 744-7911. City Hall, 121 N LaSalle, rm 201A.

Berlin Women's Obsession Night. 954 W. Belmont, (773) 348-4975.

Guild Complex 6th Annual Musicality of Poetry Festival: today featuring "Kurt Elling and the Laurence Hobgood Trio with special guest Kahil El'Zabar." Cross-cultural multi-media fest runs Wednesdays thru February, 7:30pm (plus Fri/Sat special events), tonight \$10 (\$5 students, \$3 open mic readers). At Chopin Theater, 1543 W Division. Info Michael Warr (773) 278-2210.

Thursday, Jan. 22

Chicago Bar Association Committee on the Legal Rights of Lesbians & Gay Men meets to discuss same-sex harassment law after the Supreme Court has heard *Oncale v. Sundowner*, incl employment policies, campus speech policies & s.h. litigation. Chi. Chap. Nat'l Lawyers Guild joins in. 12:15-1:45pm. At CBA, 321 S Plymouth Ct. Info (312) 554-2000, or email 7wojck@jmls.edu or rvmlawyer@aol.com.

Chicago Women in Trades Technical Opportunities Program Orientation Call (312) 942-1444.

Imani Umoja, bimonthly discussion group for southside Af-Am gay/bi men 907-8993

Saturday, Jan. 24

Howard Brown Health Center Parenting Workshop for Lesbians & Gays: (773) 388-1600 x3310.

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children "The Lost Culture of Women's Liberation—The Predynastic Phase 1969-1974," a feminist archeological spoof by Aussie artist/writer Suzanne Bellamy, 7:30pm, suggested donation. 1650 W Foster. Info (773) 973-9934.

River Oak Arts literary organization offers 6-week journal writing workshop led by Mary C. Lewis, author of *Herstory: Black Female Rites of Passage* (1988). The workshop is geared for both writers-to-be & practicing writers. Lewis has received a Prose Fellowship from the Illinois Arts Council, and has been artist-in-residence at Ox-Bow and Ragdale, among other accomplishments. Saturdays 9-11am, Jan 24, 31, Feb 7, 14, 28, March 7; \$195 (\$185 members)—\$10 early bird discount 15 days before wkshp begins. At Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave, Evanston. Info (708) 524-8725.

Monday, Jan. 26

North Lakeshore Gay & Lesbian Community Organization (The GLC) sponsors Ninth Congressional District's Candidates' Forum. There's no incumbent: Dem hopefuls Carroll, Pritzker & Shokowsky are expected to attend, among others. Moderated approach, with prepared & impromptu-written questions. Voter registration will be available, for March 17 primary. Doors open 7pm, prog. 7:30-9pm, free. At Broadway Armory, 5917 N Broadway. Co-sponsored by ALMA, The Committee, GAY CHICAGO magazine, GAPIC, HRC, Ill Fed for Human Rts, Khulizaban, Lambda Publications, LesBiGay Radio, SANGAT, Yahimba..

ARTS & THEATRE

NOTICES

Arts Community Assistance

Program grants application workshops Jan 8 and 9, (312) 744-6630. **Auditions** for Neil Simon's *Lost in Yonkers* Des Plaines Th Guild, Jan 12-13. (847) 391-5720 ext 4.

Auditions Lyric Opera of Chicago Feb. 1-Feb 21 (312) 332-2244.

Awards nominations Gay Lesbian American Music Awards forms now available with new categories. www.glama.com or e-mail: glama@nycnet.com or GLAMA (212) 592-4455.

Breast cancer: Fear of Recurrence Seeking art, fiction or non, poetry, photos dealing with fear of recurrence or metastases from those who have had breast cancer. SASE Anthology: Pioneer Valley Breast Cancer Network, PO Box 53, Leeds, MA 01053. Deadline April 30.

Submissions for an anthology by and on the lives of Black gay men, all ages older encouraged; stories, poems, essays, or personal histories. Deadline Jan 30. Under 3000 words, no minimum. Mail to R. Ball/D. Robinson, 3540 N. Southport Ave. #329, Chicago, 60657-1436 or E-mail at dnrubins@midway.uchicago.edu. Submissions will be retained, there will be no notification of status.

THEATRE

Openings

Jan 14: 12th Annual Young Playwrights Festival with the year's finest by high school students, professionally produced, acted and directed. Thru Feb. 1, Pegasus (773) 878-9761

Jan 19: In the Heart of America A Palestinian-american woman searches for the brother who disappeared during the Gulf War. With his lover in a small Kentucky hotel room, she learns the truth which connects the present to America's military history. Thru Feb 28, About Face Th (312) 409-4863

Jan 26: Tribute to Allen Ginsberg words of the poet, coupled with jazz and expression. Steppenwolf ensemble members Martha Lavey, Frank Galati, vocalist Kurt Elling, pianist Laurence Hobgood, and percussionist Kahil El' Zabar. Steppenwolf, (312) 335-1650

In Performance

Afterplay Anne Meara's astute comedy about the strength, ironies and idiosyncrasies of friendships and life. Two show-business couples reunite, share the tender and tragic in their lives, while a third couple's terrible loss of their only son to AIDS reminds us all of the fragility of love. Touchstone Th thru Jan 18, (773) 404-4700.

Late Nite Catechism interactive comedy written by Vicki Quade and Maripat Donovan, directed by Marc Silvia, starring Mary Zentmyer as Sister and Patrick Causgrove as the visiting priest. Ivanhoe (773) 975-7171.

Mr. Nanny A parent for the 90s and beyond, finding purpose and finding family by being—Mr. Nanny! Now starring Rick Beech (*Pope Joan* and

Vampire Lesbians of Sodom) Ivanhoe Th, thru Jan (773) 975-7171.

RENT Best Musical 1996 Tony Award, 1996 Pulitzer Prize. Young people on the edge face AIDS and other obstacles in life. Shubert. (312) 902-1500.

The Second coming of Joan of Arc A one-woman show from Joan's point of view, strips away traditional labels given to her and searches for the person. Thru Jan 10, Cafe Voltaire (773) 506-4547.

Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind. Thirty constantly changing plays in 60 minutes, every F and S 11:30p and S 7p. The Neo-Futurarium, (773) 275-5255.

DANCE

Jan 22: Next Dance Festival featuring many styles of dance created by Chicago choreographers and companies. Breakbone DanceCo., Cerulean Dance Th, Amy Crandall, Dance COLlective, Ginger Farley, Frank Fishella, Paula Frasz, Carrie Hanson, Harrison McEldowney, Christine Munch, Cindy Reid, Eduardo Vilario, Winifred Haun & Dancers and Zephyr Dance. Harold Washington Library Th, thru Feb 7. (773) 278-6453

ART/PHOTO

Chicago Public Library From Fireside to Field: Women and the Civil War, thru Mar 14. (312) 747-4889.

The DuSable Museum of African American History *Amistad* In 1839, on the Spanish slave ship La Amistad, 39 African captives, led by Cinque, rebelled and were captured off the Eastern seaboard after failing in a desperate attempt to return home. A civil rights battle then continued for two years in prisons, town greens, the courtrooms of Connecticut and the Supreme Court. The display begins in the Mende (African) village, and includes the capture, revolt, trial and return. Ship records, graphics, maps, reproductions of correspondence are part of the 5,000 sq. ft interactive exhibit. Simulated dock pilings hold telephones which narrate the story, thru June 30. Harold Washington In Office, a permanent exhibition, features composite office setting comprised of memorabilia and personal effects. (312) 947-0600.

Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum *Sor Juana, a Tribute to Mexican Women Festival*, includes *On the Edge of Time: Photographs by Mariana Yampolsky*. Born here and living in Mexico since 1944, the photographer documents the culture. Thru Jan 11. (312) 738-1503

Urban Art Retreat annual dinner party and panel discussion Jan 4, 4:30pm Chicago Women's Resource Center, 30 E. Adams. Tix \$25 by mail to Arts Bridge/Urban Art Retreat Projects, 2936 N. Southport #210, 60657.

Woman Made Gallery Signs and Symbols, multi-cultural look at the use of symbols as communication and their visual impact. Jan 23-Feb 27. (312) 328-0038. 1900 S. Prairie.

Ripples from the Events of the Amistad Live Today

by Robert Schultz

The *Amistad* story is the tonic that I need. Many African Americans have a primordial rage when we think about the historic institution of slavery in a country that was founded on the ideal that all people were created equal. Although slavery was a universal and ancient human practice, in the United States the enslavement of humans based on race evolved into a powerful economic, cultural, state-supported institution. The U.S. finds itself with a Gordian knot of problems including racism, poverty, and disenfranchisement that continue to defy resolution because of longstanding racial injustices whose roots can be traced to slavery. *Amistad's* story will help cool that rage and replace it with understanding because *Amistad*, the movie, has as its leading character a strong, intelligent, and fiercely proud Black man. Perhaps Cinque, the central *Amistad* character, will become a cultural icon for Black men.

The African Cinque's bold courageous act of insurrection while at sea against his Spanish slavers is an inspirational event. This historical act of freedom now serves as the fodder for a film, several TV specials, and opera. It's a testament to American racism that this story of American freedom doesn't lead off the discussions of slavery in history books.

Sengbe Pieh, named Joseph Cinque by his slavers to falsely convey the idea that Sengbe was born in slavery in Spanish-speaking lands, is the central character in the historical and the artistic accounts of the *Amistad* events. Sengbe, a 25-year-old rice farmer of the Mende tribe from Sierra Leone played by Djimon Hounsou, was captured by other Africans while farming. Sengbe survived the slave fortress of Lomboko and the middle passage to Cuba.

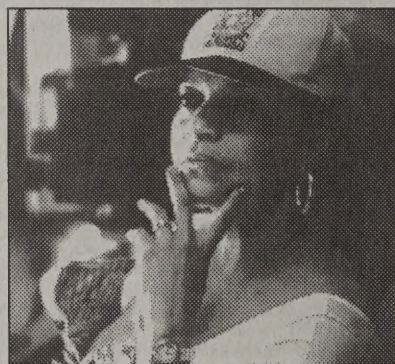
After being sold along with other captured fellow tribes people, the entire group was made a human cargo on the Spanish ship *La Amistad*, which ironically means friendship. During a storm at sea, fearful



ABOVE: Sengbe/Cinque (Djimon Hounsou, middle) and his fellow captives are charged with piracy and murder in the film adaptation of *Amistad*. **BELOW, LEFT:** Morgan Freeman as abolitionist Joadson. **RIGHT:** Producer Debbie Allen.

of their fate, Sengbe and the other men take advantage of the situation in classic guerilla war fashion and commandeer the

were free born, captured into slavery illegally, and that they exercised their fundamental right to secure their freedom by force.



The blow for freedom struck by Sengbe Pieh reverberates today with ripple effects that continue. Where was this story before?

History was always one of my favorite subjects in school. Even with an intellectual curiosity to learn as much Black History as I could, like many

Americans I never heard about the rebellion, the subsequent trial of those Africans, and the eventual recognition of their freedom.

Without Sengbe there is no *Amistad* story. For Sengbe to rise to the occasion and lead his people against incredible odds was a heroic act. It should be in our history books! America's lack of Black, male, historical figures in the mythos of this country are an indication of how interwoven racism is in our country's fabric. Although we have a national federal holiday honoring the Dr. Martin Luther King, on the historical scale, King's holiday recognizes a contemporary figure who towered above the personalities of his time.

ship *La Amistad* and order the crew, whose lives they spared, to return them to Africa.

The sailors play a cruel trick and by chicanery sail up the North American coast until the *Amistad* is captured by the Coast Guard off Long Island. The ultimate story of the *Amistad* is the court trial which determined their fate. The 19th Century legal system wrestles to determine whether these are free men, or property, and if they are property, whose is it: the sailors of the *Amistad*, the coast guard officers who claimed salvage rights, or the Spanish crown's. Ultimately a pre-Civil War Supreme Court packed with slave holders decides that Cinque and his men



Sengbe (Djimon Hounsou) making his dramatic plea for freedom.

Before *Amistad*, and King, the only Black historical figures from before the 20th Century who are firmly a part of the American mythos are arguably Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth. Incredibly, even in the second edition of his classic tome, *Race, Racism, and American Law*, which I studied as a law student, penned by the preeminent Black legal scholar, Derrick Bell, there is not even a footnote referring to the events of the *Amistad*. For some commentators the *Amistad* decision was the best legal event for African Americans until the post-Civil War enactment of the 13th (outlawing slavery), 14th (equal protection of the law), and 15th Amendments (right to vote) to the U.S. Constitution.

This historic omission of the absence of the *Amistad* story is being corrected. For Chicagoans in particular, the last few months and continuing as late as this spring the opportunities to learn about Cinque, the ship, and the court case are numerous.

The *Amistad* exhibit at the DuSable Museum will run until the end of June; there has been the World-premier of the opera *Amistad* at Chicago's

Lyric Opera; and everyone knows about Steven Spielberg's movie.

The Film

The *Amistad* film opens below the deck in the cramped slave quarters in a dramatic darkened scene punctuated by lightning from a storm, which barely provides enough light for Cinque to discover a loose nail, and use the nail to free himself and his African comrades from

their iron bonds.

If the only result of *Amistad* is to ensure a correction in American history so that in the words of a CHICAGO TRIBUNE cultural critic, John von Rhein, "no thinking American will be able to avoid or plead ignorance of the subject," then maybe it was worth the wait of nearly 160 years.

Amistad at DuSable

The DuSable *Amistad* Exhibit provides some crucial background about the events depicted in the opera and the movie. Prominent in the exhibit are murals by Illinois-born Black muralist Hale Aspacio Woodruff. Some of Woodruff's murals of the *Amistad* events, which hang on the walls of Talladega College Library in Alabama, are at the DuSable.

The stories and likeness of some of the Mende people who were on the *Amistad* are presented. A sculpture of the four children, all under the age of 12 who were among the captives, is the central exhibit in one of the rooms. According to a pamphlet produced by the New Haven Colony Historical Society for a similar museum exhibition, the presence of four children who could not have

Turn to page 29

I Want My Money (The Reparations Rap)

by Obidike N. Kamau

Did somebody (what) mention reparations?
Well if so then check this information
They ripped us and they forced us into cash-free labor
The time when we were slaves and they were the slavers.
They stole us from our beautiful land
Reduced us to less than a man
Refused to let us take a stand and they made us wear animal brands.
They stole my children, stole my wife
They thoroughly fucked up my life
They stole my religion, stole my name
That's world history's biggest con game.
What do we get now— more of the same
and they want me to take all the blame.
They talk crazy, like they're on crack
'Cause this country was built on my Black back
But I'm tired of living as a slave
And now it's time for me to get paid.

(Chorus)

I want my money!
(Time to get paid in full)
I want my money!
(my forty acres and my mule)
I want my money!
(this devastation to my race)
I want my money!
(insures that I stay on your case)

They killed my father and raped my mother
Molested my sisters one after the other,
and if that wasn't enough, what do I see?
they got my brother outside hanging from a tree.
We've been frustrated, and castrated, systematically demotivated,
It's been bad, we been damn near eliminated
But we're Black and we're strong, as you see we can take it
Four hundred years, and still we have made it.
With dehumanization and mental slavery
Biological genocide's corrupting me.
All this because they raped my Black women.
These are some facts that I am just sending.
This is the message I have to relay
'Cause now is the time for me to get paid.

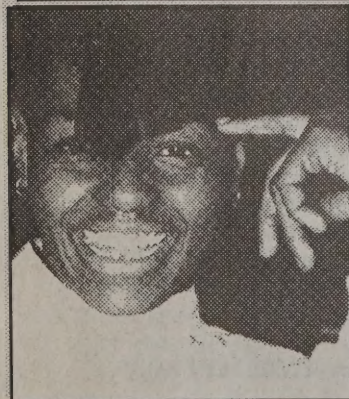
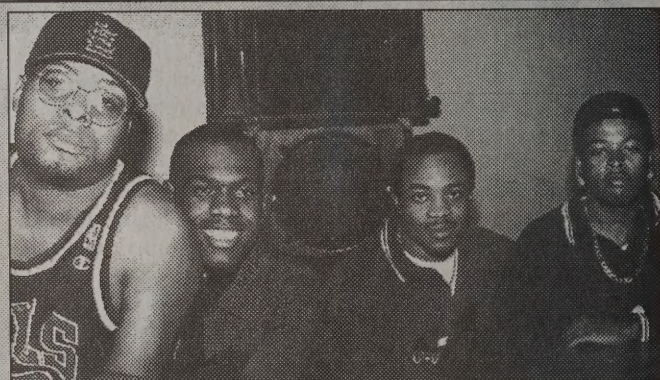
(Chorus)

See we are the victims of an undeclared war
We ain't fighting (Why?!) We don't know what for.
We've been manipulated by a diabolical mind
He's stolen our land, our life and our time.
He's stolen our legacy, stolen our knowledge
and then all of our rights as humans he abolished.
He's taken us people, completely degraded us
In seasoning labs, he then recreated us
Wanted to erase our cultural memory
Try and make us forget all our history,
but I'm a time bomb
and I'm a loaded grenade
And I'll chase him and dog him—UNTIL I GET PAID!!
I WANT MY MONEY!!

Dr. Obidike N. Kamau is a faculty member of the African-American Studies Dept. at the Metro State College of Denver.



Jacques Cristion held his 27th annual Halloween Ball at 99th & troop. Here are some pics from the event. TOP LEFT: Jacques and Davis. TOP RIGHT: Charles, Jeanette and Barbara. MIDDLE, LEFT: August. MIDDLE: Tiffani Wells, last year's Queen of the Ball. RIGHT: Mercedes, Darnell, Michael and Parrish. THIRD ROW, LEFT: Donna, Kim and Tina. RIGHT: Nancy and Antonio. Photos by Tracy Baim



LEFT: The PAC Social Club, a group for mature African-American lesbians, over age 25, held their first social for lesbians of color, a bridge party in November. Pictured is Yunnee. Photo by Lynnell Long. RIGHT: Phrasority held their last event at Paris Dance (which closed Nov. 15). From left: Itasca Wiggins; Jackie Taylor & Jocelyn. Photos by Rory Tanksley





Players Ball

The Players Ball was held recently at Michelle's Ballroom on Belmont. TOP, LEFT: Paula. MIDDLE: Belinda James and Chrystal. RIGHT: Sarah and Carla. BELOW, MIDDLE: Tammy and Ferneshia. Photos by Israel Wright

Literary Exchange held their annual potluck, with entertainment by A Real Read and writers Tiffani Frazier and Patricia Mickey. BELOW, from left are LE board of directors: Donna Johnson, Margaret Davis, Carla Carter, Glenda Lewis and Melba Poole. RIGHT: Sanford Gaylord, Carla (CC) Carter, LaJaunessee Jordan. Front: Tiffani Frazier, Patricia Mickey, and Rhonda Bedgood. Photos by Israel Wright



LEFT: Terrence Miller of the Minority Outreach Intervention Project with Ronald Mansois from Asian American AIDS Foundation at MOIP's World AIDS Day event. Photo by Israel Wright

ABOVE: Clubhouse celebrated its 7th anniversary recently at their new location, Mondays at Convent on Armitage. LEFT: Tasha Long. RIGHT: Sheri Payne. BOTTOM, RIGHT: Members of Onyx, the leathermen of color group, recently served dinner at Church of the Open Door. Back row: Mufasa, Joey, Michael, James and Bill. Front: Steve and Jeff. Photos by Israel Wright



Whatcha Thinkin' 'Bout?

**Text and Photos by
La Jaunessee Jordan**

Question: What are your memories of the last Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays (CBLG) Unity Conference? *[The responses were given at a performance of A Real Read, sponsored by CBLG.]*

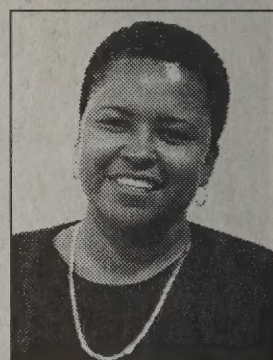
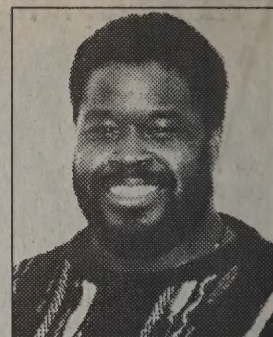
JACKIE ANDERSON: The conference was larger with more workshops and covered many more concerns.

SUSAN STANLEY: The Women's Institute was so wild! Questions that I have entertained in my mind, but never voiced were answered. The room was so (comfortable), so much energy. The only problem was there were so many questions ... so little time.

ALDEN BELL: I was proud to have been asked to share a spiritual message with my gay family members. It was an honor and it was fun.

TED DOBBINS: The community coming together to work on a common goal was the best part for me—being with, working with, and fellowshiping with my sisters filled a void.

DEBRA BROWN: I really thought that the Women's Institute was thought-provoking, entertaining and knowledgeable. I also



TOP, from left: Stanley, Brown, Watson. MIDDLE: Dobbins, Bell, Johnson. BELOW: Anderson.

enjoyed the speaker who was the former

mayor (Ken Reeves, former mayor of Cambridge, Mass).

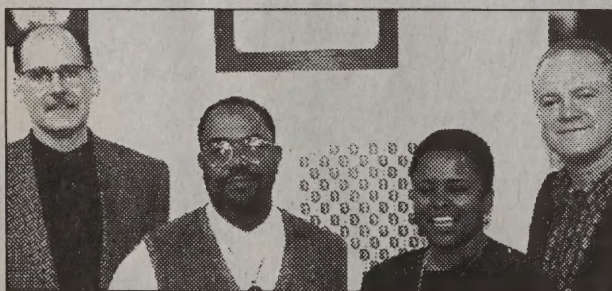
ANONYMOUS: The last Unity Conference was very memorable for me. It was the first time that I "came out" and admitted to a group of strangers that I am HIV positive. I attended the session on grieving and the discussion got to this topic very quickly. And I didn't see Black and white! All I saw were people going through the same thing. I even felt supported and accepted.

C.C. CARTER: Women's Institute!

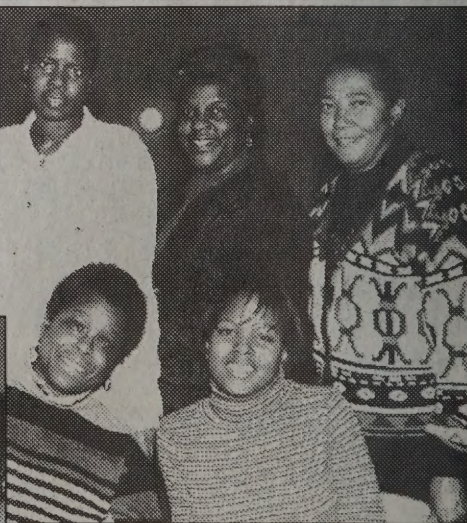
DONNA JOHNSON: A larger crowd, wonderful keynote speakers.

LYNNELL STEPHANIE L.: The workshops—meeting new people—the speakers—friends—being around My people—feeling love and warmth.

SHELTON WATSON: Being in the room with about 200 other L/B/G/T people and having the two keynote speakers connect in togetherness in our community as L/B/G/T people—challenging us to celebrate our sameness and our differentness and using those things to further unite in a fight for equality. (All present) were brothers and sisters, in a very real sense, at the time.



ABOVE: Bob, Troy, Donna and Mark at the Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays benefit at A Real Read. Photo by Israel Wright. **RIGHT PICS:** Friends of Ardis McBell (middle woman in the bottom pic) helped raise funds for her medical bills recently, during a birthday party for BLACKLINES' coordinator LaJaunessee Jordan. Photos by Tracy Baim



Haunted: Life After Diagnosis

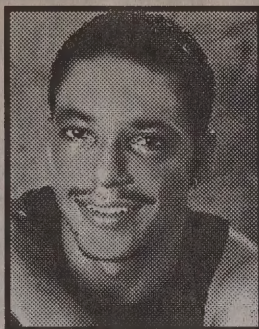
Part Two

by **Sanford E. Gaylord**

Mr. Death can make you feel alone, trapped by fears; like you are losing a little of yourself day by day. If you allow him to take ground, he will consume your thoughts; take your spirit and ultimately your life. I have decided to fight every step of the way and wage battle on the front lines. I thank God, for my family, which includes my brothers on the front lines especially the "Admiral" and "Yoda," at Brothers United In Support (BUS), a program of Test Positive Aware Network.

In part one of this series (December BLACKLINES), I wrote about CD4 counts, Viral Loads, and the treatment options that have become my therapeutic armamentarium in the battle of my life, my war with HIV disease. With this month's issue, I will focus on antiviral medicine (meds) their cost, and the side effects that I have experienced.

In August, my doctor and I decided to go with a triple combination therapy. We decided to utilize two of the older antiviral meds and one of the newest meds that cleared the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in June of 1996: Zerit (d4T), Videx (ddI), and Viramune (nevirap-



ine). We elected to not go with protease inhibitors. I was HIV treatment naive, in other words, I have never taken any antiviral meds while I have been living with HIV disease. If you recall from the last article, the virus mutates rapidly and protease inhibitors are the top of the line as far as meds that were approved by the FDA. So, the tactical reasoning was to see how the virus and I react to one regimen before pulling out the big guns. This regimen was to be the best as far as low side effects. Of its most impressive attributes, it crosses the blood/brain barrier. HIV can live in the tissues of the brain and the regimen does not cause cross resistance with other types of antiviral meds in vitro (test tube).

The annual cost of the first batch of meds was about \$8,052. Since I do not have insurance, I qualified for the AIDS Drug

Assistance Program (ADAP) through the Illinois Department of Public Health at no cost out of my pocket. The meds came directly to my mailbox at home. As I stated with in previous article, I was surprised at how fast they came and the month that went by before I took them due to fear of side effects and the reality of having to take them daily for the rest of my life or until there is a cure and it does not seem as though we're anywhere close to a cure for AIDS.

After speaking with my doctor, I consulted my brothers at BUS, who are on the frontlines, for direction and personal experiences. I heard a wide range of experiences and advice. Some of my brothers had little to no side effects taking meds and some of them are on protease inhibitors. Others chose to take a more holistic approach: vitamins, herbs, acupuncture, etc. Because "the side effects make you feel as you are dying." They only take some western medicines to combat opportunistic infections (Thrush, tuberculosis, fungal/parasitic infections), the aftermath of the raids HIV reeks on the immune system as it weakens over a time while at war.

I opted for a combination of the two that worked best for me. I went "power shopping" at my favorite health food store stock-

ing up on vitamins and herbs to build up and prepare my body for the meds to come. Although I had prepared myself with knowledge of the meds, possible side effects, picked up vitamin/herbal supplements from the health food store, Mr. Death still haunted me with fear.

The simple aspect of taking meds was ultimately my biggest challenge. It would be a constant daily reminder that I had "the package."

I had the bottles lined up on the dresser in my bedroom. Seeing them every morning since they arrived, they reminded me that I was HIV positive. At one point, I dreaded waking up looking at them. My brothers and loved ones would ask if I had started and I would say no, they new I was frightened, but like true friends they kept their feet up my ass, and I love them for it now.

On Labor Day morning, I opened the bottles, got myself a large glass of water and started what was to become a twice a day ritual. The ddI, which must be taken on an empty stomach or at least an hour after eating, was supposed to have a fabulous mandarin orange taste.

Personally, it smelled great but the orange taste was faint and overall taste was like chewing chalk. I made a "down home" country breakfast, grits included, congratulated myself on finally starting, said blessings and took the d4T and nevirapine. The food made me feel full but the meds made me feel empty.

The following weeks were like a nightmare turned into reality. I felt nauseous, especially after taking the ddI, and these meds are much to expensive to throw up and have to take again. This led to my not having much of an appetite and making myself eat. The most degrading aspect of this episode was the diarrhea. Walking down the street, thinking you have gas, defecating on yourself and being a long way from home. The humiliation of having to take the el all the way home thinking about the damn drugs that are supposed to be saving your life.

Next month, switching regimens and reclaiming my dignity.



LEFT: Miranda Stevens of It's Time, Illinois! and Lynnell Long at the Chicago Gender Society's holiday party. **Photo by Jennifer Theiss.** **RIGHT:** Chicagoans Byron Stewart (left) and Sanford Gaylord (right) performed in Detroit for a Men of All Colors Together benefit Nov. 28. A MACT member is pictured with them.



Candidate night at Club Escape bar. From left: Mike Evans (patron), Frank Dean (Escape co-owner), Tommy Brewer (candidate for Cook County Sheriff), Larry Johnson (Escape co-owner), Arthur Coleman (co-owner), and Thomas Harrell. **Photo by Michael O'Connor**



POC Coalition Frustrated with AIDS Walk

by P.J. Engelbrecht

Under pressure from the People of Color Coalition, the AIDS Walk board of directors undertook to develop a new comprehensive Strategic Plan this fall, and the Plan was completed Oct. 27. The board also has taken initial steps to address POC Coalition concerns raised during an Aug. 28 protest at AIDS Walk offices, 221 N. LaSalle, though no concrete changes have yet been realized.

AIDS Walk's new strategic plan outlines five specific goals for 1998. Topping the list will be achieving revenues of \$2 million by Dec. 31, 1998. According to executive director Paul Hook, this year's revenues will fall about a quarter-million short of the \$2 million goal which had been set for 1997. Hook attributes the shortfall to "donor fatigue [and] apathy" and expects a final tally of \$1.76 million by year's end.

[In late news, AIDS Walk reported Dec. 22 that Hook is stepping down as director; they will decide soon how to fill his vacancy; call 312-422-8200 for info.]

AIDS Walk also plans to add four to six new positions on its board of directors by March 31, 1998. The process of selecting new board members got underway earlier this autumn, first with inquiries asking that interested individuals be nominated, followed by requests for résumés.

Several POC Coalition leaders have been suggested as new board members, but co-chair Renae Ogletree told OUTLINES that the Coalition is dissatisfied with the slow-paced, incremental activity. "We're not very happy," said Ogletree. "I don't think [the AIDS Walk board] gets the importance of it not just as board expansion. ... I don't think they feel accountable to anyone but themselves. ... They continue to ignore the fact that the issue is around people of color agencies [and] people with HIV." Is AIDS Walk purposely dragging its feet on board expansion? Hook responded to queries last week by repeating an almost-scripted explication of the selection process. The only new detail is that the board "interview ... group meets against the second week in January," to cull candidates and set up final selection interviews. Hook said he did not know how many candidates would be in the last-round pool. "The whole point is to resolve [the issues] in a very expedited way. ... You can make this a very long,

drawn-out process. ... I can't say [the AIDS Walk board] is not interested ... [but] they're not addressing it."

Ogletree said that the Coalition will communicate their on-going concerns to the AIDS Walk board in writing. The other three goals the AIDS Walk board identified in the strategic plan seem less volatile: to decide on a funding model by June 1, 1998; to determine infrastructure needs and implement them by Feb. 1, 1998; to develop and implement a communication plan by March 31, 1998.

Whether new member agencies in communities of color will be added, or whether one-time grants to non-member agencies will be adopted, are still wide-open questions.

Hook continues to insist that major changes depend directly on election of new board members, yet an internal "planning horizon" document suggests that task-completion deadlines for each of the five goals will have been met before new board members will be installed in April. Hook explained that the timeline is based on the new board constitution. For example, the infrastructure issues involve "looking at the AIDS Walk office, how we construct our [administrative] staff, how the board is constructed," even how the office computer system is set up. Elements unrelated to the board per se will be dealt with early in '98; indeed, new software already has necessitated additional computer hardware to enable tracking 20,000 donor names and other information. More intangible infrastructural elements, such as an overall marketing plan, designation of who performs public relations, and especially the restructuring of the board and tapping the resources of new board members' particular skills all depend upon the board of directors installing new members first; Hook said. The new model for dispersing Walk revenues will be devised and emplaced in June, after staff research is complete and after the new board members have come 'up to speed' on the matter, to enable the full board to decide who will glean AIDS Walk funds.

Whether new member agencies in communities of color will be added to the consortium, or whether one-time grants to

non-member agencies will be adopted, or whether the new funding model will address POC Coalition concerns at all are still wide-open questions.

The AIDS Walk board has characterized the AIDS Walk "vision" with the new motto, "Alive, Wide-reaching and Caring ... One Step Ahead!" Reaffirming the primary AIDS Walk mission as raising money to support a broad range of HIV services and responding vigorously to the HIV epidemic, the board identified "Respect, Commitment, Fairness, Integrity, Trust and Leadership" as guiding principles.

The board developed the new strategic plan by interviewing community members, AIDS Walk volunteer leaders, Walk team representatives and corporate leaders, and then collating the data and their own perspectives with the assistance of facilitator Vicky Raymont.

In August, the POC Coalition asserted that the 12 founding agencies still in the AIDS Walk consortium are shortchanging people of color. When the only South- or West-side founding agency, Kupona Network, went under earlier in 1997, it was not replaced on the AIDS Walk roster by another community of color-based agency. The Coalition believes that AIDS Walk agencies thus cannot adequately or optimally serve clients from the South and West sides, who are predominantly people of color. The 12 AIDS Walk agencies all mostly situated in and most easily serve North Side neighborhoods, whose residents are mainly white.

The POC Coalition boycotted the AIDS Walk on Sept. 28. Hook admits that the negative publicity may have affected revenues this year, but perceives other, "outside" factors as making a greater negative impact. "The number of people who feel [HIV is] the number one health risk has declined," said Hook, noting that the diminishing fear of HIV affects service agencies' bottom lines. "We have to redouble our efforts. ... More clients are coming. The costs are going up. People are living longer [with AIDS]. ... The agencies are needing more and more money ..."

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations was asked by the POC to monitor the situation and has been in close contact with both sides of the debate. The city has an interest because the Walk uses a city permit.

What's The "411"

with Preston L. Shumaker
Smart Sex Advice
with an attitude!



A World AIDS Day Reflection

In the 1997 World AIDS Day aftermath, I remained in my office most of the day and quietly reflected. As I placed my red ribbon on my turtle-neck, I remembered many individuals who have personally touched my life but who are now gone. The second wave of AIDS has made its seething presence felt in the Black community. The sinister reality of many more of my young Black gay brothers seroconverting (becoming positive) while HIV cases among white gay men are declining.

I decided to go to a lecture. Michelangelo Signorile, a prominent OUT MAGAZINE columnist, was speaking at Loyola University's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Student Union. He is truly an individual who has single-handedly managed to read gay folks and dares to push people's buttons in the community. He has written *Queer in America* and *Outing Yourself: How to Come Out as Lesbian or Gay to your Family and Friends*. I had previously heard him speak in Springfield promoting his new book, *Life Outside—The Signorile Report on Gay Men: Sex, Drugs, Muscles, and the Passages of Life*. I admit, I had not read his previous books.

Some African Americans asked me, "Why are you going to this lecture? He's not Black and really had nothing to offer to our community." I'm interested in obtaining more accurate information regarding new trends to bring back to the Black community. Signorile was well informed about some of these

trends. Period.

Among the highlights were three trends he noticed that affected gay men: a resurgence in unsafe anal sex, a focus on the ideal muscular body resulting in an increase in steroid usage, and more people at circuit parties for dancing, drugging and unprotected sex orgies.

I must admit when I first saw Signorile, he really looked like a harmless suburbanite who was sporting last year's grunge look. Somewhat softspoken, the man methodically educated his audience. He dealt with the most common misconceptions regarding protease inhibitors. "There are gay men who now think that HIV is cured and/or a manageable disease." In the war against AIDS, many questions are now being asked about protease inhibitors. Questions Signorile said we can't ignore any longer. "Protease Inhibitors are not the magic bullet that some once thought," he said—noting that the verdict is still out regarding the toxic effects that the drug may have. "One has to take all the medication correctly without fail in order to keep the viral loads to undetectable levels. Thus, the medication must be taken for the duration of a person's life." And, that's real.

Catastrophically, some men take the drug as a "morning after pill" after unprotected anal sex. Signorile told a story of a male who had recently ended his 14-year relationship after hearing about the "cure." In his relationship, he had unprotected sex after they both tested negative for the virus for a

year. The couple had been monogamous. The recent divorcee went out and had unprotected sex thinking he could just get on protease inhibitors. Unfortunately, the partner he had unprotected sex with was not only HIV positive, but was already using protease inhibitors. Three months later, the divorcee tested HIV positive with the resistant strand of the virus and his viral load was in the millions.

In addition, some are purposely giving up safer-sex practices and having unprotected sex. The new phenomenon, "barebacking," is the latest craze at circuit parties. According to Signorile, many gay organizations supported these parties, which are masqueraded as AIDS benefits. They last three to five days which encompass dancing, drugging and unsafe sex. "In San Francisco, Ecstasy and Crystal Meth (amphetamine) use is at epidemic proportions. Crystal Meth can keep men going up to four days and is the greatest indicator for HIV infection," he said. "People lose cognitive reasoning and have unsafe sex. They even have a web site called Xtreme Sex for men who want 'the gift': to become HIV positive. It's an epidemiologic nightmare."

The most frightening revelation of the evening was when Signorile explained there is an explosion in steroid use. "The body ideal is muscle, perfect hard bodies in the gay community. Between 70 to 80% of men in certain gyms are shooting up. Remember that dirty needles also transmit the virus! Some HIV-positive men also use

steroids to prevent wasting syndrome. However, some HIV-positive men are pumping up their bodies using these drugs to have bodies closer to the ideal." This has a negative effect on impressionable young HIV-free men: "If he looks like this and he's HIV positive, than maybe it isn't all that bad. Many of us in the gay ghettos are still longing for intimacy," he said. Unfortunately, sex is being substituted for intimacy and the result will inevitably mean a rise in HIV cases. And yes, we do have similar Black gay sex parties in Chicago, guys. I also went on that Xtreme website. And guess what? Black guys from the Chicagoland area had web pages on this site, too.

Signorile stated that although there is a lot of bad news, he remains hopeful. "The diversity of our community will hopefully break this drug cycle. Many suburban and rural men are deciding not to move to the gay ghettos. They are coming out in those suburban/rural areas and leading quiet lives." In his travels, Signorile said there appears to be more interaction among diverse groups in smaller communities. "When younger people know older people who have experienced HIV deaths and disease, they are more likely to practice safer sex more."

Whether or not you like him, Signorile has dared to tell the truth. Maybe we can save more lives before young Black Gay Men become positive, if we all just dare to tell the truth: There is still no cure for HIV. Period. Thus, positive and negative men must take equal responsibility for their actions. A serious neon sign is illuminating in my head. As the warning continues to blink repeatedly, HIV is putting all of us on notice! No one is off the hook. The life you save may indeed be your own. Enough said.

Gubernatorial Candidate Roland Burris Speaks Inclusivity

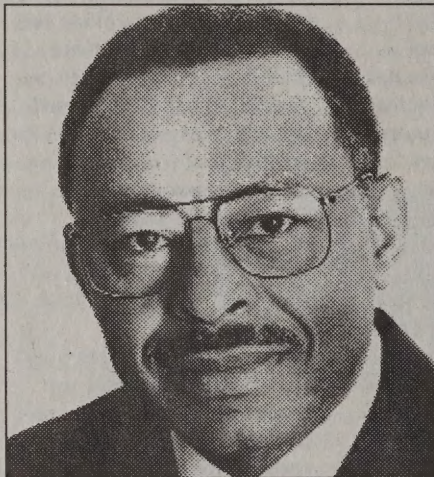
News analysis by Jon Dallas

Following is the conclusion of our two-part interview with Democratic candidate for governor Roland Burris.

JD: Your Fair Education Funding Budget proposal has \$2.1 billion being infused into Illinois schools over six years.

RB: The tax increase proposal didn't work. What are we going to do to fund education? I'm saying as the governor of this state, with the powers that office possesses, that we will do it through the best process. In six years, I will put \$2.1 billion into the common school fund. Which will then bring us up to about 50% of the cost of education, taking into consideration inflation dollars. It's about \$12 billion now and in the year 2004 we should be spending about \$14 billion on education. I'm saying that the state should be putting in \$7 billion and local property taxes will be putting in about \$7 billion. And we're going to work to reduce the local property taxes in the interim. ... I was in Springfield about 20 years when this erosion started. I came into the governor's cabinet in 1973 [and] my Gov. Dan Walker made a pledge to fund education. He put in 4 years \$616 million into the educational fund [1973-77]. That's how we brought the funding level up to 48% because he made that commitment. And guess what? He didn't raise the taxes. We went through that budget, we made all kinds of changes and cuts, reductions and cutting out automobiles and found out that we were paying 13 cents to mail a letter from the state office building across the street to the state capitol building using the U.S. Postal system. Tax dollars. We found that we saved millions of dollars in postage for setting up our own letter messenger service. That's how you

do it—you've got to constrict government dollars and shift them into education. And we



Roland Burris

were able to find with revenue gross and other shifting dollars, \$660 million [between 1973-77]. That translates into about \$2.1 billion 20 years later.

So I will find \$600 million my first year, then by shifting the budget, cutting and all of waste, then I will take \$300 million of revenue gross and I will create \$600 million my first year. Each year after that, I will put a minimum of \$300 million into revenue gross. In the next 5 years, you'll get \$1.5 billion in plus \$600 million, \$2.1 billion. I know I can do it because it's been done before. It's a matter of where your priorities are as governor. One last point: the governor puts the budget together. ... [The governor] has 50 people that spend 10 months putting that document together. When [the budget is] introduced in March, half of the budget goes to the House [of Representatives], half to the Senate. Most [legislatures] don't even know what's in it. [The House and the Senate] don't have time to analyze because there's 4,000 other bills to con-

sider. [Legislatures] have less than 10 weeks to work on what the governor took 10 months to

put together. A lot of people don't know that. That's the experience that I have in [running for] this office because I have analyzed and studied each one of those budgets because I had to see what the spending plans were in all of them. I had to write the checks and police [the budget] to make sure that not one penny was spent spent that was not allocated

by the general assembly. That's what my responsibility was as state comptroller so I know where the bodies are buried in the funding process.

JD: Recently the Chicago Transit Authority implemented service cuts to save money. Mayor Daley is calling for increased state funding for public transportation. Do you support this?

RB: The federal government if also cutting it. And the question is where do we find those dollars to do that. I will definitely be looking at the sales tax that has passed into the state that goes to CTA that was put in back when they created RTA in the 1970s and no increase in the state share at all. I'll see where all of those transportation dollars are going and take a look at that. I cannot make a commitment that I will increase the state funding until I find out where I can get the money to do it. But you can rest assured that I'm disturbed [at] how CTA is operated and how the RTA is operating. The governor has very little input into

the power playing of CTA and RTA. We have very little direct authority over those entities because they're quasi-governmental entities ... Our transportation system for the metropolitan area has to be looked at and what we have to do is see how it's going to enhance our getting to and from jobs.

JD: What role will lesbians and gays, including Jewish and those of color, play in your campaign and administration?

RB: I already have [Black] lesbian and gay advisors. Some individuals were very close to me and I didn't even know their orientation. I've since learned that one my top persons was gay. So, if you know [that you're gay] and you're out, that's your business. That's how I became knowledgeable because I made sure that I had top people [who are gay] who had access to me who can fight with me on the issues. Lisa Cohen [who's white and now lives in Denver] and Marc Loveless [from The Committee] are examples of my top advisors who are lesbian and gay.

JD: In the last 15 years Illinois has had a tremendous growth in its prison population. Given the fact that African-American males constitute such a high percentage of the prison population, do you favor building more prisons?

RB: No. I do favor punishing those who commit crimes—that they have to pay their penalty, but my emphasis will be on early intervention. My interests will be on those first-time offenders to get other types of treatment for their asocial and criminal behaviors. We have built to date 17 prisons in 18 years. We have two on the drawing board that will be built in 1998. That will mean that we will have 19 prisons in 19 years that will cost between anywhere from \$65 million to \$95 million apiece. In all of those, \$40 to 60 million to run them once you open them up. That's the growth industry in some of our downstate communities; they're fighting to get prisons.

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UP ON IT

Music reviews by J.

Erykah Badu — *Erykah Badu Live* (Universal/Kedar Entertainment)

It takes a bit of nerve for an R&B artist to release a live CD. It takes even more nerve for a new artist to release a live recording after only one album. And within the same year ...

I saw Erykah Badu perform twice before the release of her debut *Baduizm*. And I must admit, after listening to the CD, I was a bit disappointed. *Baduizm* lacked the charm and energy I witnessed and felt at her concerts. Unfortunately, and ironically, so does *Erykah Badu Live*.

From her crack on first track "Rimshot," I noticed something wrong. As the concert progresses, it's apparent that this was not her best live performance. She is annoyingly nasal throughout most of the set (especially on "On & On") and on Chaka's "Stay" she mumbles the verses and screams the chorus in what comes off as a parody of Diva Khan. The audience is also unnecessarily obtrusive. A better mix-down would have let more of the performance shine through (although more audience noise tends to convince the listener that a good time was had by all).

Her band's cover of Roy Ayers' "Searching" reflect *Live* perfectly. It features a great arrangement and backup vocals, but just when things smooth out,

keyboard "horns" ring out making everything seem empty and calculated. Altogether, this is not bad for those who haven't seen her or bought her first CD. But if you have, hold on to your memory and your money. A video can't be far behind.

Christión — *Ghetto Cyrano* (Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam)

After hearing this duo's excellently produced first single, "Full Of Smoke," (an "interpolation of Marvin Gaye's "Trouble Man"), I was eager to hear the rest of their CD. Through four "chapters" (the streets, the relationship, the love and the aftermath), these streetwise pretty boys paint a poetic picture of love and the trappings of the hood with good results. This could be particularly successful as chill-out music for the "gangsta rap" set (read: marketing strategy). Most successful are their relationship and love songs (notably "Midnight X-ta-C," "Face Like Yours," and "Come To Me") which allow their convincing falsettos to create good make-out music. And, of course, no "nu-soul" act would be complete without an old school cover (in this case, "I Wanna Get Next To You"). Although this genre is starting to get saturated, there's talent in Christión.

Chico DeBarge — *Long Time No See* (Universal/Kedar Ent.)

It has been a long time since Chico DeBarge's minor pop/soul hit "Talk To Me" in 1989. After nearly six years of incarceration, the most blatantly sexual member of the talented DeBarge family

RuPaul for X-Mas

Rhino recording sensation and VH1 talk show superstar RuPaul has a funny take on traditional holiday tunes in *Ho, Ho, Ho*, now available. His voice shines through and the re-written lyrics are a gem.



drops his sophomore effort with the help of Kedar Massenburg, Svengali to Erykah Badu and landlord of the self-proclaimed "home of neo-classic soul." All songs were written or co-written by Chico with the exception of Marvin Gaye's "Trouble Man." The material, mostly a collection of mid-tempo expressions of heartbreak, is a bit uneven. Standouts include "Love Still Good," (which sounds more like Gaye than DeBarge's rendition of "Trouble Man") and "No Guarantee" (featuring Wah Wah Watson). "Iggin' Me" and "Ms. Wonderful" feature great organ work and background vocals (recalling D'Angelo) but are hampered by trite lyrics. Much of the rest recall slightly above average R&B tunes. Mildly disappointing, but not bad.

The Fix on 'Nuts & Bolts'

Music W.D. Parnell

Everybody—well, maybe not everybody—has at one time or another wished that he could be a dancer. Imagining themselves in a world of power and daring, of majestic flight, and boundless energy. Some are happy to indulge vicariously; however, the more adventurous are moved to move. After seeing a performance by The Joel Hall Dancers at a high school assembly several years ago, I knew I wanted to be a part of this visceral world called dance. To this day I remember that performance.

I suspect another performance by The Joel Hall Dancers I won't soon forget was their recent presentation of *Nuts & Bolts*. This is a brilliant and *tres* modern adaptation based on the classical ballet and holiday staple, *The Nutcracker*, composed by

Tchaikovsky (1892) with choreography by George Balanchine (premiered in 1954), which in turn is based on the Alexander Dumas version of E.T.A. Hoffman's tale, *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* (1816). With this "jazzy *Nutcracker* for the '90s", Joel Hall has managed not only to create something new and unfailingly entertaining, but gum-poppin' fun, literally. The Company dancers, as well as several pre-pubescent "Arabesque Cookies," joined their varying degrees of ages, talent, height, ethnicity, weight, and textures to present a top-notch performance full of color, laughter, music and AT-TI-TUDE!

"The children," from all over Chicago and of all ages, packed the Athenaeum Theater lured by music as diverse as Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn to Just 4 Grooves; the eclectic juxtaposition of costumes by Gregory W. Slawko and Florence Martin; lighting by Mary MacDonald Badger; the understated two-dimensional, yet animated set by James Estes and, of course, the stunningly original choreography. The viewer's imagination is un-

leashed by visual effects that are uncompromisingly grand. *Nuts & Bolts* is a full-scale production and Joel Hall "lets you have it," (SNAP!) from beginning to end. Diva Vanessa Truvillion stood out, coming to form as Drassel Mama. She often puts me in the mind of the even grander diva, Judith Jamison. Other notables, such as Kirby Reed, William Gill, Merrick M. Mitchell, and "my buddy Angel" Abcede; not only did he work the crowd in drag, but in toe shoes—on point! *You go girl!*

It was obvious that some of the Company dancers were less "mature" technically as dancers, and they *all* seemed a little tired towards the end; but with the enormous energy and enthusiasm put forward by the dancers (and after four days of performances), it's understandable. Fortunately, Joel Hall's choreography sustains the production through its two acts. *Nuts & Bolts* is one of the best in the Company's repertoire. This is a must see! Its popularity is immense and growing and will provide a spark to anyone's holiday season—can't wait for '98.

TRANSLUCENT TRANSEXUAL

by **Lynnell Stephanie L.**
Mix & Match or None
of the above
Returning to the
dating scene

Meeting that special someone can be fascinating. As I return to the dating scene, I guess I am lucky to have so many friends that want to hook me up with what they call, "Lovely open-minded women." It's not that I ask to be introduced to the next woman I would meet, fall in love with, and move in, in less than a year's time.

Actually I am growing fond of living alone with my two cats, Dyke and Rosz. Being introduced to someone is easier than starting from scratch. The women I'm meeting, through the dating services of my friends, already know that I am ... different. There isn't the hassle of trying to explain myself to someone. "Well girl, there's something I should tell you, I am a pre-op transgendered lesbian." I could never take a *Crying Game* scene. The one when he finds out she's transgendered, slaps the hell out of her, and runs to the bathroom to regurgitate. She sits there bleeding, lights a cigarette and says,



"What were you doing at the bar if you didn't know?" Excuse me! She should have asked him where does he want his teeth delivered? If that was me, I would have regurgitated from kissing a man. Which happened to me recently, but that's another article.

Then there are the old faithful personals. The issues I have with personals are most papers or magazines will list Transsexuals in the "Mix & Match" or "None of the Above" section. After investigating, I found that Lambda Publications [OUT, NIGHT and BLACKLINES] will list transgendered women in the "Women for Women" section, but they prefer if I were honest and say if I was transgendered. Great, at least we won't have to be listed with that guy that wants a lesbian to watch as he masturbates. THE READER, however, says they automatically list all ads which states you are a TS, TV, or CD in the "None of the Above" section.

"It's not that you are bad, it's just that that's where we placed the ads," a READER woman said.

So if we didn't mention in our ad that we were transgendered, we would go in the women section. But who wants to deny who they are hoping to meet someone? Eventually I'll have to tell her, if she doesn't already know, and that's more drama.

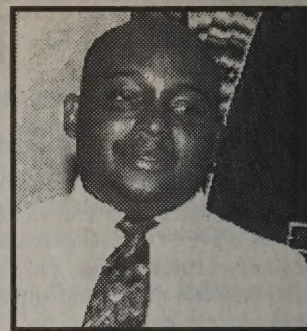
Then there's the issue of whom to

date. It seems people that I associate with always tease me for dating what they call "white bread" or white people. It's not like I have never dated anyone of my race. My ex-wife is Black or "wheat bread." So for all of them, here is my explanation: I believe that the Goddess put everyone in my life for a reason. I learned so much from my last lover. I wouldn't be the woman I am today without her help. It doesn't matter to me if my lover is Black, white, or whatever. As long as they can love me for me and give me room to grow. I do find "wheat bread" very tasty and satisfying, but I also know a lot of lesbians struggle to accept that they are attracted to transsexuals. They begin to question their sexuality, and question what will their friends think. It takes a strong woman to date TS's and not worry about what anyone may think. Maybe I won't go out of my way to date "wheat bread" solely, like some people I know. That's because I like to shop around. Of course if one of my dear friends introduces me to, or I met some "wheat bread" that's loving and fulfilling, I would be a fool to turn it down only because I'm familiar with "white bread." Besides "wheat bread" is good for you, and I could use the nourishment.

I find myself thinking a lot about dating, where before it all came naturally. I seriously doubt if I will venture into the personals, it's not that serious, and I learned a lesson from my last experience. I've learned a lot about myself from my last relationship. I know today for my sanity and identity, there are some things I can never do again.

As I prepare myself for the sex-reassignment surgery, I realize the old ways of doing things don't work for me anymore. But when you're in love, you do things that don't feel right, to please your lover. Now it's time to please me. Dating can be fun, if only I remember to relax and go with the flow.

Lynnell's E-mail address is:
Not4men@aol.com



So Many Men ...

by **Dwayne L. Sanders**

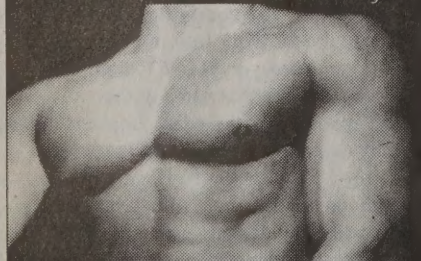
The Gay Men of Color AIDS Institute was Oct. 23-27 in Newark, N.J. I went expecting a lot from the conference. At first I thought the conference would be a wash because the youth institute wasn't very organized. As the conference went on it became more educational and I began to feel a part of a community of men dedicated to health and the wellness of our community nationwide. I made some great contacts and I felt like I made some friends. I was very impressed by the youth I met at the conference.

The first day, I met Lawrence from El Paso, Tex., and Michangelo from St. Louis. We all bonded and hung out a lot the rest of the week. I talked to them about things that somehow I couldn't even talk to my close friends about, being a young voice for my community, mainly because I felt they understood. As the week passed I met other individuals such as Troix from San Francisco, Matty from New Mexico and so many others, from Minnesota and from right there in New York were Jay Sane and Rodney.

As we talked, our bond and our excitement for this conference grew. We learned the trials that each one of us faced as service providers in our communities. We talked about our fears and we discussed our goals, hopes, and dreams. It was amazing to me. For some time, I had felt like I was just paddling in the same spot and getting

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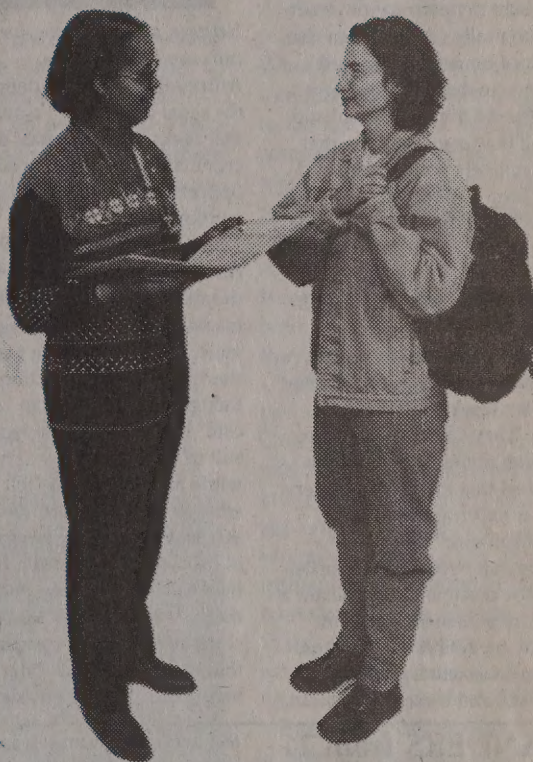
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Action In the Affirmative

by Donna Rose

Greetings and salutations for the New Year ... I have finally brought some modicum of closure to a seriously event-full year ... while dealing with personal challenges that, at times, made me doubt my personal power, it has, ironically enough, been also a year of tremendous reward ... so there, to those who thought that the old diva would fall and did all they could to bring that most unlikely occurrence about ... can't keep a good witch down ...

The impending New Year has also brought about some occurrences that bear keen watch ... like this move to dismantle affirmative action. I am always amazed at the number of folk, generally non-Black, but the few who are Black scare me even more ... hey Clarence T., I wonder would you be reading this ... who feel that there is no longer a need for affirmative action.

"Affirmative": the side in a debate that upholds the proposition; the positive, or optimistic; a word, or statement of assent." Action, by definition: "habitual or vigorous activity; energy; combat," and these by *American*



Heritage, so how fitting for the purpose of this article. Affirmative Action as defined by the same dictionary: "a policy that seeks to redress past discrimination by ensuring equal opportunity, as in, education and employment."

On a recent hiatus to sunnier climes to clear my head, I was dumbfounded by comments made by a young, white, gay male. He said he doesn't see the need for affirmative action, though his friends try to "educate" him ... he said he wore a suit to work everyday at his big, white man job, and he felt his co-workers accepted him, and further stated that he knows many of his associates who did not fit the "nellie" stereotype, though they partied in some "funky" clubs after work. He also stated that he contributes to "the cause" because his friends pressure him

to do so.

Now the richness of this exchange wasn't lost on me ... here I am, big, evil, Black woman/dyke when it comes to stupid shit ... but I can tell I've grown too, since I didn't feel a need to slap this kid to sleep. I fixed him with a gaze and managed to say evenly something to the effect that the reason he has never felt discrimination generally is because he is the recipient of white male privilege, however, as a gay man, it would only take ONE occurrence of someone kicking his narrow white ass, calling him a "fucking punk ass faggot" while "slumming" in one of those "funky" neighbor 'hoods, and reporting the incident to a rather blasé cop, who might tell him something like "shut the fuck up faggot." Not that I ever would wish this kind of occurrence on anyone, but I told him to keep living, and perhaps he might change his mind.

The point is: no one feels invested to work for change unless he/she is as uncomfortable as the next person. When non-Black queer folk feel as uncomfortable as most Black folk, then there were be some real work to reach some level of comfort ... it is also called equal opportunity ...

Which is why I was surprised,

looked deep inside myself I think I realized what bothered me the most was my fear of letting anyone know that I often woke up questioning my gayness and my ability to speak to other youths about being gay. I told them my fears, I told them my pain. But most of all I shared myself as honestly as I had ever done in my life.

The gentleman performing the ceremony ended it by going to each person and telling us what the spirits told him to tell us. He told me to follow my heart because sometimes I think too much with my head and not with my heart—and my heart always knows the truth. I tend to follow this advice. My heart will guide me into the next journey of the rest of my life.

Let me close this by giving you what we gave each other: a great big, long, tearful hug and lots of love.

happily for a change, at the number of non persons of color who were actively participatory at the Color Triangle workshop at Harold Washington Library Dec. 13. While I listened, I couldn't help but think of the many times these types of discussions have occurred ... interesting that white folk LOVE to organize ... even the way that race was discussed was seriously divergent from the way MY folks discuss race ... the interesting thing was that the energy of all was necessary for the success of the discussion ... there needs to be present a balance of order AND passion for change as well ... because non-Blacks ... let me say that I use Black people as a barometer of what any non-Black-identified person does NOT want to experience ... I am not discounting the experience of Asians, Brown/Latino/a persons whose first language is Spanish, Native people, nor the physically challenged ... however, within the aforementioned groups there are Black folk ... as in big-lipped, nappy-headed, black/brown/yellow-skinned who have an african cast that is NOTICEABLE on their faces ... who are then subjected to racist discrimination within those other groups ... you still with me? ... non-Blacks do not experience racism in the way Black folk do, so it is reasonable they would lack this passion, but only when they, too, feel as uncomfortable with racism as "we" do, will there be some significant changes.

It was good for me to hear white folk acknowledge the imbalance. I must say that I don't see racism being eradicated any time soon. However, if the gay/lesbian/bi/trans communities' issues are to be viewed as civil-rights issues as one would be led to believe from listening to a tape of the Human Rights Campaign's gala in D.C. ... though interestingly enough, there were few colored faces in spite of every other quote from Martin Luther King ... we better get busy and vocal on those issues not only in "our" communities, but in the larger context as well ... but that's just me and how I see it from the dark side ...

SANDERS from 24

nowhere. Often times I felt ashamed of my fears about who I was and what I was doing but to realize that I was not alone was breathtaking, yet at the same time so energetic. So often the young gay people in our community are overlooked because we are thought to have little or nothing to offer.

We went out to New York at night to clubs—the partying was not what it was about. It was about the strength and unity we were receiving.

That brings me to the person who I think I will always remember—his name is Darrell. Darrell had a positive aura around him from the first time I laid eyes on him. He turned out to be one of the most beautiful people I will ever meet. I spent a lot of time talking to him. Being around him somehow made me

feel better about myself and about what I was doing with my life. I won't go into details about our conversations but I will say that listening to him talk about his struggles and how to me he had been such a fighter and survived, made me look at myself and question so many avenues in my life. Darrell (DJ) touched me in a way few people will have the opportunity to be touched.

On the last day of the conference, I was given the opportunity to participate in a Native American ritual called a talking circle. This is the time that we get to open up and talk about the things that bothered us the most in our lives. Listening to these virtual strangers who had become so close in so little time talk so openly about their lives, I could do nothing but cry. When it was my turn, I didn't know what I would say. But when I

History Through Storytelling

by Kathleen Rose Winter

On the walls of her home, there is history. She has everything from a long ago, faded family portrait, a banner announcing a 1972 Black Caucus Convention in Gary, Indiana, to pictures of the Honorable Mayor Harold Washington. She is a native daughter; born in 1939 at Chicago's Provident Hospital. Up until the age of four, she lived in "Bronzeville" near 37th and State Street. Her life experiences are rich with our culture, complete with the sweet wonder of love and the reality of pain.

In 1943, MAJ and her family moved to the Morgan Park community near 111th and Vincennes. There, she spent the remainder of her childhood. Even though she was born in Chicago, part of her roots lie in Mississippi. Her father, born and raised there, "escaped" when he was 16 years old. He fled from the blood and death that could quickly turn a Black boy into just a memory. Her mother, now in her 80s, came from Ohio. MAJ was the youngest of six children (one sibling died as an infant).

Since the age of five, MAJ remembers feeling something special for women. She liked to look at them. During adolescence, she did not have a boyfriend but instead "hung out" with a group of teenagers. At this already precarious time for a youngster, she experienced the first major trauma of her life.

At 17 years old, after a group outing, an acquaintance offered MAJ a ride home. In the car, while parked in the driveway of her



home, he raped her. This "date rape" was like ice to her soul. The acquaintance used verbal threats and intimidation to rape this child. There were no visible bruises, but three months later, she told her mother about the incident. She was pregnant. In 1956, abortion was a dangerous and shady ordeal. It cost \$300. But her mother embraced her scarred and scared baby and helped her through the ordeal. MAJ was traumatized but grateful to bring closure to the experience. So grateful, that she never told anyone that the "doctor" who gave her the abortion molested her. MAJ says she washed and washed her body to stave off the smell of semen, but it remained for at least one month. She never saw either offender again.

Throughout these realities, she remained in Calumet High School. She befriended a neighbor, a Native-American woman. They spent their days playing Chinese Checkers. They eventually became intimate; MAJ ran away with this 28-year-old. They stayed away two weeks, spending about one week at the Hollywood Hotel and a few days at a Salvation Army shelter. MAJ's worried moth-

er was relieved when they returned. The Native-American and MAJ were jailed (MAJ in Juvenile Hall). Both received probation for the incident. Eventually, the relationship between the woman-child and the Native woman ended.

In 1964, MAJ married a man whom she had been dating for one year. Before they married, she told him that she was a lesbian. She divorced him in 1967 after bearing two sons. (She was pregnant three times but had a miscarriage during the eighth month.) At this time, MAJ moved into the Chicago Housing Authority's (CHA) Cabrini-Green housing projects. She raised her two sons at the "Greens." This was a good place for her. She remembers the rough times too—when she walked throughout the

While she was still married, MAJ socialized with gay and lesbian people. ... She enjoyed "the life." She smiles as she describes the first gay bar she visited and frequented, The Volleyball Bar.

rubble of the 1968 "riots," scared that the "jittery young White boys"—the National Guard soldiers—might accidentally shoot at her and her babies. Even so, she says this community was her "salvation." Full of proud, hard-working Black folks, here was where MAJ began her long career in community activism.

While she was still married, MAJ socialized with gay and lesbian people. She sent out for and received gay publications. All of the printed material originated from white gay males but she still obtained useful information. She joined

The Daughters of Bilitis (a national lesbian organization which had chapters in various cities). She enjoyed "the life." She smiles as she describes the first gay bar she visited and frequented. She remembers it as being called The Volleyball Bar. It was just off of Clark Street near Belden Avenue. She and her friends spent many good times there. When the night would turn into morning, they would go to the nearby Steak 'n' Egger restaurant for breakfast. After a year, the Daughters of Bilitis rented a closed restaurant, near Clybourn and North Avenue, the Golden Ox. They transformed it into a bar, where for several months they held lesbian dances.

MAJ became immersed in two worlds—the Cabrini Green community activism and the gay and lesbian social and political life. Quite often she was the only Black woman among the gay and lesbian folks. She remembers some good times. She said that the white women amazed her because they "had so much on the ball."

Even with this admiration, a quiet but expected racism remained in the air.

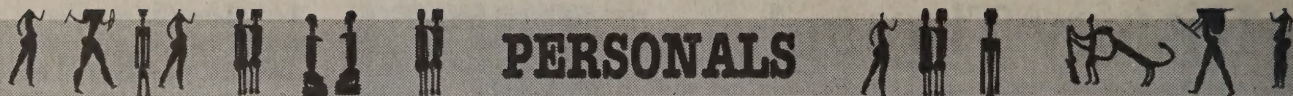
At this time, MAJ began her first long-term, monogamous relationship with a White woman. MAJ was puzzled at how people could have so much fun together—almost on an equal footing—but still mired in that great hate, that great disrespect of racism.

Her girlfriend called her a "nigger." MAJ did not resent her lover for this, but with such racism, she says that she "couldn't relax," so she "couldn't love."

The relationship ended after two years.

♦♦♦♦

(The second part of MAJ's story will continue in the February 1998 issue of BLACKLINES.)



MEN

Love, romance, friendship, endless passionate nights, dreams to share and more, nice looking tall no 26, 6', 150. ISO black tall thin guy for serious relationship, you will not be disappointed. NLBox269 (3/4)

Love sex. Attractive BM top straight acting 5'9" 150# 30yr. Discreet, nice body, seeks slim boyish guys under 35 (any race). Lee (312) 216-9101 pager. (1/28)

Butch-bottom BM, 38, 6', 195#, HIV-, fit, smart, seeks HIV-, fit, smart, masc top, 35-50. Fax (202) 546-0219; EMAIL: commuterc@aol.com

Attr. 41, masc. Black male seeks in shape, stocky, masculine, mature, Black and Hispanic males for fun friendship, outings, and more. Ages 35-59 only (No sissies or transvestites.) Anthony, PO Box 408443, Chgo, IL 60640. Pager (312) 830-2344. (2/18)

BM seeks incarcerated Black males to send true tales of "forced" prison sex. Erotic imagination, realistic dialogue, and good writing skills. Please send to: 1507 E. 53rd, Box#674, Chicago, IL 60615-4509 (1/7)

Handsome Black oral top/bottom ISO average to large size BM over 29, up to 300#. NLBox 265

Experience heaven on earth, be touched from head to toe. Why wait for the elusive heaven? GWM, swimmer's build, looking for friend to exchange body massage. Finally be in touch with yourself. Write PO Box 14121 Chicago, IL 60614-0121 (2)

I am a Top GBM 50 yr 5'11 1/2" ISO GBM who wants a handsome lover. I like the movies, theater, dining out, etc. Must be straight acting masculine enjoy staying home. No bars, no games, HIV-, no drugs. 30-50 employed. Letter and photo, please. NLBox261 (3)

Attractive BM Top straightacting 5'9" 150# 30yr discreet hard body, love sex. Seeks slim boyish guys under 35/ys (any race). Lee, pager (312) 216-9101(2).

GWM, top, 40s, 6', 170# with thick russet bush looking for GBM, GHM, GWM bottom for friendship. Send recent snapshot. NLBox255 (1)

One hundred percent bottom, having a party 1-12-97, downtown hotel. Me A/F, you A/G. Clean, HIV- UB2. Call for details. NLBox/Voice 52303

Big attractive 300# BM Teddy ISO big affectionate masculine sumo type for a serious relationship. (Big hands/Bubble booty+.) VOICE52301(11)

Experience heaven on earth, be touched from head to toe. Why wait for the elusive heaven? GWM, swimmer's build, looking for friend to exchange body massage. Finally be in touch with yourself. Write PO Box 14121 Chicago, IL 60614-0121 (11)

GWM 40s 225# seeks Latino for friendship, dating, any age, likes movies, dining, talks. NLBox249 (12)

BGM 6'3", 205 masculine oral bottom seeks masculine non-fat BGM for steamy action PO Box 87325, Chicago, IL 60680 (11)

Love and romance, endless passionate nights, unforgettable moments together and more. Nice looking Mexican 25, 6, 150, serious, mature, responsible acting straight, looking for tall slim black guy 20-30 to share dreams, love and fun, no games please, photo-phone to get mine. Can we have a chance? You will not be disappointed. NLBox245 (11)

Starved for Affection? BiWM, 39, 6'1", 180, handsome, athletic, touch oriented Lincoln Park yuppie; loves erotic massage, exotic women, occasional man-to-man encounters, seeks slender, well-endowed oral enthusiast for erotic massage exchange. Photo appreciated. NLBox241 (11)

PERSONALS

Personals

How to place an ad:

- The first 20 words are free; each additional word is 25¢. Ads run 2 Months. ADS ARE FOR ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Groups wishing to place ads in personals can do so at CLASSIFIED rates (\$10/30 words for 1 month, 3 months \$27).
- In addition to your ad, send your name, address, home phone & signature.
- You will be assigned a free voice-mailbox number, unless you specify you do not want one. You can record a voice-mail message for free; retrieving messages costs \$1.49 per minute. Upon receipt of your ad, we will send

your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.

- You can rent BLACKLINES mailbox/\$6 per month, if you wish to have written responses forwarded to you; we send them out once a week. (If you have your own PO Box, voice mail #, or beeper #, we request \$5 per 2 months. We DO NOT accept ads with home address/phone)
- Deadline is 10th of each month for next BLACKLines. You can also run in Nightlines and Outlines and En La Vida.

How to respond to an ad:

- If an ad ends with an NLV #, you can reply by mail or by phone to that ad (some ads will list an address + a voice-mail # in parenthe-

ses—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail).

- If ad ends with NL BOX #, you can only reply by mail. If it ends with Voice #, you can only reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).
- To respond in writing, send letter to the NLV # or NL BOX # specified at the end of the ad, c/o BLACKLINES, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chgo, IL 60657. Respond to all others ads as specified at the end of the ad.
- To leave a voice-mail message (\$1.49/min.), use touchtone phone to call 1-900-454-0101. Punch 1 & 5-digit NLV # or NL Voice # to respond to that ad — or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages. (773) 871-7610 (Tuesdays 9-5 only)

Ad should read

Please also run ad in (no extra money): ☐ Outlines ☐ Nightlines ☐ En La Vida
FREE voice-mail number (phone responses only!) ☐ I Do NOT want voice box #

PERSONALS FOR ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES.

Classified rates (\$10 for 1 month, 3 months \$27).

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION—MUST BE FILLED OUT:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Signature: _____

Cost of the ad:

1st 20 words, 2 months FREE

Additional words 25¢ ea. \$ _____

MailBox # (\$6 per month) \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Send to: BLACKLines/Outlines, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

WOMEN

Leave your U-Haul at home and explore spontaneity, passion, and fun. 31, N/S, athletic, educated, professional ISO N/S, mature, thought-provoking, versatile, open-minded, 25-40 woman. Ideas, creativity and sense of humor a must. VOICE52512 (1/28)

Attractive lesbian seeks sexy, emotionally-sound lesbian couple for adventurous three-way. Safe sex, good communication important. No games, no boys. VOICE 52508 (2/11)

Call for Racquetball—Women's league forming in Northern/Northwest burbs. All levels. Please leave name, phone and skill level. NL/VOICE52506 (12/31)

GBF, 20, 5'9", ISO femme (18-25). Looking for someone special to love. VOICE 52496 (12/31)

52504 (12/31).

GF 31 y/o Black Hispanic with 2 kids looking for love. One that is pretty fine 5'2" or shorter with job and time to play. Must be mature. Gay women. VOICE 52502 (12/31)

Wanted: Nice girlfriend for our bestest pal! She's 51, unconventional, BiSWF. Shallow details: 5'9", medium build, fine boned, cat allergic, non-blond. She's 'indoorsy': bright, well read/traveled and fun. Interests: Arts, modern music, Scrabble, British telly, and road trips (doesn't drive). Her idea of camping is no room service. Seeking LTR with intelligent, independent bi/lesbian woman. Requirements: well read, varied interests. Age/race not important. No neophytes, big hair, or separatists. NL/VOICE 52496 (12/31)

GBF, 35, mother of one has a good balance of work/play, outgoing, serious about responsibilities with a great sense of humor ISO mature woman. No Bi's, druggies or heavy drinkers. Smoking OK. Pager (312) 820-0810. (1/28)

You're ISO working professional/independent/sensitive/considerate/affectionate/a attractive/single woman beautiful inside and out. Join the Network. Tiffany (708) 686-7329. NLBox998 (2)

The love you deserve, someone special seeks good woman. GBF seeks easygoing lesbian 30 or over, 5'-5", 130-190#, who is honest caring affectionate, sensual, passionate, friend and lover. Come snuggle up with me, watch some movies. Clean, disease and drug free. Seeking only good, healthy, caring sincere, non-violent, non-possessive, mentally stable relationship, no mind games, just gratification. Honesty, communication, respect, the 3 things which make it last a lifetime. Beep (773) 579-7965 (12)

Very attractive, discriminating, together, way fit, professional SWF, 29, ISO same and beyond. Are me with your intelligence, independence, beauty, humor and grace... win me over with your honesty, passion, sincerity and smile. So hey, does sharing a bottle of Sangiovese, playing backgammon and talking in front of my fireplace while lying on a Mexican blanket sound like a pretty cool date? Then write

immediately (or sooner). Age/race never issues but photo is a must. NLBox990

ISO femme with many interests, who wants romance and fun times. I'm a butch who's romantic, fun, honest, overweight and has many interests. Please no bi's, drugs or heavy drinkers. Leave message. VM (773) 635-6124 (12)

Attractive black gay female seeks other gay black female for friendship, perhaps more. Enjoy movies, dining out, etc. NLBox 984 (11)

Rescue Me!! Tired of the bar scene? GWF 40 (soft butch) looking for femme GHF, GBF financially + emotionally stable. Height + weight proportionate. Looking for someone to share my life with, are you out there? I like movies, dancing, dinner, shipping, new adventures. I'm a one-woman girl. No bi's. NLBox 978 (11)

Word witches! Passionate poets. Writer seeks same to share work, ideas, inspiration. Send me a letter. NLBox970

Weren't you that cute writer at Sister Spit? I was too. Let's meet and pick up our own girlish pens. Send a letter. NL/V52370 (11)

Mix & Match

Attractive bi-curious BF is interested in participating in a threesome with two other women or another man and woman. If you feel that you can show this new girl around the block, give me a call. VM (773) 479-7163 (1/28)

MANPLAY

only 10 cents
per minute!*

1-914-346-CHAT
(2428)

*Dial 10811,
then the number
18+

CLASSIFIEDS

BULLETIN BOARD

TAI CHI, STRESS MANAGEMENT, and Fitness for the New Millennium, quality instruction by **Martial Science Institute, (773) 374-5266**. Reasonable rates available for your group of 10+. Master Teacher / Warrior-Priest Mfundishi Olafemi A. Watangulizi has 27 years experience in Asian and African martial science. New class forming at the Church of the Open Door, 60th and Albany, **(773) 778-3030**. Mention this ad for a free introductory class. (2/98)

COUNSELING

YVONNE IRVIN, PH.D. African American Licensed Clinical/Community Psychologist. Over 25 years of experience from Harlem to Kentucky, to Pittsburgh, now Chicago to serve you. North & South Side locations. Sliding scale fees. Most insurance accepted. **(773) 880-2403**. (1/98)

MARILEE SNYDER, LCSW, ACSW. Individuals, couples, family and group therapy. Consejo en español individuos, parejas, familias y grupos. Emerge from depression and anxiety, build understanding relationships, appreciate different life choices. **(847) 604-3602**. (4/98)

DATING SERVICES

DATING NETWORK Exclusively for Women. A Brand New Innovation in dating. Not just a service, it's the Network Connection. Get involved. **Join the Network. (708) 686-7329**. (3/98)

HELP WANTED HEALTH SERVICES

COSMETIC SURGERY — BIG IS IN! Featuring Penis/Pectoral Enlargement, Curvature Correction, Liposuction, Lip, Face/Nose/Eye Reshaping. Board Certified Surgeons. Financing available. Call **800-853-4819** for free brochures and your \$1000 discount. Some insurances accepted. (4/98)

SEARCH for MUSLIMS

IF YOU ARE GAY and were raised in, are practicing, or have ever practiced Islam, an Art Institute graduate student would like to interview you for a student documentary. The interviewed will be respectfully implored to tell their personal stories regarding a subject not entirely realized by either the Islamic or Queer communities. **If interested, call Abu at (773) 645-3608**. (12/97)

TRAVEL

GETAWAY COTTAGES in new **Buffalo, Mich.**, 1-1/2 hours from Chicago. Near beach, restaurants, shopping, VCR/TV. 2 or 3 bedroom, fireplace, **(312) 287-2400; 1-800-44-ENVOY**. (9/98)

AFRICA! Mysterious ... Exotic ... Breathtaking ... Incomparable! Private, fully escorted safari to Kenya and Tanzania July 98. Join us on a journey of discovery. Call **(773) 975-7225**. (11/98)

WhuzzUp this week in D.C.?

Men's Event & Info Line in the Black Gay Capitol: 1-900-963-0230 (\$1.95 per min). *** ALSO TRY MALEBOX MAGAZINE: The Intimate Opinions, Experiences & Emotions of Black Gay Men \$24/12 issues (hardcopy only). More info: Malebox2@aol.com

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

BRONZEVILLE. Meticulously restored 2-story greystone. Four bedrooms, 2+ baths, basement, full length extra side yard, garage, ornate stripped woodwork, hardwood floors, new windows, and skylight. \$149,900. **Richard Smith, RE/MAX Realty Group, (773) 334-3347 or (773) 404-3812**. (12/97)

PHONE LINES

LEATHERMAN! Meet on ManPark! Call now guys are waiting To talk to you! Try it FREE! 18+ use code 7980. **(773) 728-4044**. (11/98)

GAY PERSONALS! Call the Confidential Connection! Record/Listen/Respond FREE! 18+ use code 7802. **(773) 378-7307, (630) 705-7440, (312) 558-5400, (847) 776-5777, (773) 506-3811**. (10/98)

J/O BUDDIES! Meet on Club VoiceMale! Browse, Match, Chat! Try it FREE! 18+ use code 7803. **(773) 769-4441**. (10/98)

PSYCHICS

ATTENTION: GIFTED AN Live Psychics. Talk to an experienced psychic about personal issues. **1-900-835-0026 ext. 4326**. \$3.99 per min.

Must be 18 yrs. Serv-U. (619) 645-8434. (1/98)

ADULT SERVICES

PENIS, NIPPLE enlargement Professional vacuum pumps or surgical enlargement. Gain 1-3". Permanent, safe. Enhance erection. For FREE Brochures call: **Dr. Joel Kaplan, (312) 409-1950**. Latest enlargement information **1-900-976-PUMP** (\$2.95 min.). (4/98)

AMISTAD from 14

been born before 1820 was positive proof that this group of Black people could not have been born in slavery, as the Spanish claimed. By 1839 international slave trade had been outlawed by treaty between the European powers England and Spain for 19 years. Furthermore, that none of the *Amistad* party could speak Spanish proved that they had been enslaved in violation of international law.

The sculpture, a series of drawings done in 1839 by William Townsend, and silhouettes completed around the same time together with brief personal histories of many of the *Amistad* Africans, adds a human dimension.

Most importantly, the DuSable exhibit reveals the Mende people to be prosperous and sophisticated. The tribe functioned as a democracy and had a highly developed court system that recognized individual rights. The solidarity and unity of purpose the Mende men had in their collective act of rebellion were no accident. Mende society had male and female secret societies called "poros." Perhaps the bond the men had developed in the poros had the unexpected dividend of allowing cooperation for the greater good.

My personal struggle to reconcile the history of slavery in the U.S. is marked by an effort to study what pre-Civil War historians are saying about the lives of the enslaved and free African-American populations. In this informal research I learned that some slave holders had preferences for certain tribes to do certain types of plantation tasks. On some plantations the craftsmen would be of one tribe, the field hands another, and so on. One can certainly assume that Mende rice farming skills made this group of Mende men a valuable commodity.

The Opera

Jazz Composer Antony Davis, his cousin, poet Thulani Davis, and openly gay stage director George C. Wolfe (*Bring In Da Noise/Bring In Da Funk*) collaborated in bringing the *Amistad* story to life in an opera that had its world premier in Chicago in November. Nine performances are taking place with the last to be on King's actual birthday (Jan. 15th). The opera is not as literal as the movie, as African spiritual deities take an integral part in the action.

Today's Reverberations

The abolitionists who formed the interracial coalition before the Civil War to abolish slavery clearly saw themselves as human-rights activists. A copy of a fundraising circular on display at the DuSable clearly says as much. Anyone who claims the human-rights mantle, including gay-rights activists, feminists, and the labor movement, owes a debt to this 19th Century movement which pioneered the human-rights movement. At one point in the movie both Cinque and John Quincy Adams mutually acknowledge the debt we owe our ancestors.

The American Missionary Association and its successors which were formed in the wake of *Amistad* organizing went on to found more than 500 institutions of learning for freed slaves, Native Americans and Chicanos, including Berea College, Fisk, and Hampton. Innumerable people of color have benefited from these institutions.

A several months' series of panel discussions and other *Amistad*-related events will come to a close with a Feb. 7 concert of freedom music at Trinity United Church of Christ; (312) 427-4830. On Feb. 8 there will be An Inter-Faith Panel on Issues of Race, Culture, Justice and Freedom at Trinity United Church of Christ. Call (312) 427-4830 for information.



World View: World Wide Web

by Andrew Davis

Art to Art

Queer Arts Resource (<http://www.queer-arts.org>) is a nonprofit forum geared toward the display and discussion of gay content in the visual arts. The site includes archival material, a bookshop, and a gallery which presently features the work of Mexican artist Nahum B. Zenil, among others. This site is looking for contributions about religion by lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered women for an Internet exhibition in June.

According to curator Lilith Adler, this exhibition has been catalyzed by the new conservatism of the '90s, which has made religion a political issue. Conservative groups of all denominations and faiths have sought to justify the persecution of gays and the attack on feminism in the name of religious morality. However, what these people fail to realize is that many gays and feminists are deeply religious—some to the point of attempting to shape their religions to

include themselves.

QAR will accept submissions of any form of two-dimensional artwork: painting, drawing, photography, computer art, or any combination. You can submit up to ten slides (for free), together with a brief bio, statement of purpose, and SASE to QAR, 160 Chattanooga Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Deadline is January 31, 1998.

Other Picks:

1. Tired of having chattering teeth and being buried under seven comforters at night? How does Kenya, Egypt, or Costa Rica sound? Travel Trends (<http://www.traveltrends-us.com>) features many travel packages; moreover, these trips are divided into men-only, women-only, and gay/lesbian groups.

2. The Few/The Proud: An American Black Conservative (<http://www.ghgcorp.com/hollaway/>). This polemical site comes courtesy of Kevin Hollaway, "a Born-again Black Conservative." There are pages covering topics like Mr. Hollaway's bio and a status report on civil rights. However, if that's not enough you can always check out Rush Online (as in Limbaugh), just one of the links this site has.

♦♦♦♦♦

Feel free to e-mail me at geminil@nwu.edu.

BURRIS from 22

That's 400-500 jobs for that community and the taxpayers are paying it. It's an indictment on our society as we let that happen because we didn't spend the dollar on the front end for education. In 1981, I made a statement that fell on deaf ears. When Gov. Jim Thompson failed to fund education to the level that he had promised. ... That's how we got into that problem. I said in 1981 that if we continue to do that, we'll regret it because we'll have an explosion in our criminal activity [and] building prisons rather than schools. I'm sorry to say that my prediction in 1981 has come true. No one reported it, no one recorded it because they thought that Burris was just blowing smoke. That was my vision then. If you don't spend the dollar on the front end, then you'll have to spend three more [dollars] on the back end and that's what we have done. We have to reverse that whole syndrome. That's the reason why I'm saying that Illinois needs a change, needs a governor that is going to turn this ship of state around. We don't need the same type of [politicians] by putting George Ryan in there because

we're going to keep this big old ship floating to the opposite shore of the wrong country in the same direction. We need a Burris to turn this [ship] around and head to the proper shore.

JD: Do you favor the death penalty?

RB: Illinois has 11 grounds under which a person who's committed a homicide can be put to death. As an attorney general of this state, I have supported the death penalty in Illinois. There's certainly has been serious problems with the trial courts procedures for trying individuals and finding them guilty through fabricated evidence and all other types of miscarriages of justice that cause people to be convicted wrongfully. I do not support that and I took a major stance on the federal attempt to cut down on the time of habeas corpus proceedings and how many times you can make appeals. Fourteen years of somebody who is guilty is too long to be in the criminal justice system. But certainly one year is too short. We're seeing something in Illinois that is just mind-boggling and some of which has happened on my watch. We must become vigilant in making sure that we're not putting innocent people to death.

F.Y.I. Resources

Predominantly Black Gay Clubs

CLUB ESCAPE, M.W.D, 1530 E. 75th St. 773-667-6454
CLUB INTIMUS (only Sat. 9p-3a)
312 W. Randolph, W.D.V. 312-243-8889
COTTON CLUB, 1710 S. Michigan,
Tus&Sun gay nite 312-341-9787
GENERATOR 306 N. Halsted, D, MW 312-243-8889
GIRLS NIGHT OUT, Fridays, 1200 E. 71st St., Leo's 773-667-3130
JEFFERY PUB 7041 S. Jeffrey, MW, D, 4 773-363-8555
CLUBHOUSE AT CONVENT MW,D,
1529 Armitage, MONDAYS 11p-4a 773-395-8660

OTHER CLUBS OF INTEREST

BERLIN 954 Belmont, MW, V, 4, S 773-348-4975
BIG CHICKS 5024 N. Sheridan, S/G, WM, 11a-2a/3a Sa 773-728-5511
BUDDIES' REST/BAR 3301 Clark, MW, R 773-477-4066
CHICAGO EAGLE, M,L, 5015 N. Clark 773-728-0050
CIRCUIT 3641 N. Halsted, Salsa, etc. 773-325-2233
CLUBHOUSE PLAYERS 13126 S. Western,
Blue Island, M,D,E,R,G,S 708-389-6688
FUSION 3631 N. Halsted, MW, V, D, E, 4 773-975-6622
GIRLBAR, 2625 N. Halsted, W,D 773-871-4210
LITTLE JIM'S 3501 N. Halsted, M, B 773-871-6116
MAN'S COUNTRY 5017 N. Clark, M, 4 773-878-2069
MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE 773-477-8362
RAINBOW ROOM 4530 N. Lincoln, WM,D 773-271-4378
ROSCOE'S 3354-6 N. Halsted, MW, D, V, E, Cafe 773-281-3355
SIDETRACK 3349 N. Halsted, M, V 773-477-9189
SPIN, Halsted & Belmont, MW, D 773-327-7711
TEMPTATIONS 10235 W. Grand, Franklin Park, W, D, V, E, 4,
(Sa Fri/Sat) 847-455-0008

Resources

AA/Newtown Alano Club 773-271-6822
Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays 773-493-3848
Adodi African-American men 312-458-9584
Affinity, creating a South Side community center
P.O. Box 496002, Chicago, IL 60649 312-409-7609
Affinity & Bro. II Bro. Youth 773-288-6900, 312-409-7609, x3
African American Womyn's Alliance
P.O. Box 198573, Chgo 60619-8573 773-731-0279
A Real Read—African-American Lesbighay/Trans
Performance Ensemble 312-409-2457
BLACKLINES, Lambda Pub/OUTLINES
1115 W. Belmont, #2-D, 60657 (FAX) 773-871-7609 773-871-7610
outlines@suba.com <http://www.suba.com/~outlines/>
Brother II Brother, Community Outreach 773-288-6900
Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays,
P.O. Box 148111, Chicago, IL 60614-1181 312-409-4917
Chgo Gay & Lesbian Marching Band (773) 743-5738
Church of the Open Door FAX (773) 778-0178 773-778-3030
Black lesbighay/trans/heterosexual Church, 5954 S. Albany
The Committee, 2300 N. Clybourn, #32, 60614 773-235-0295
Greater Chicago Committee, P.O. Box 148642, 60614-6642
Healthline 312-661-9153, prevent 773-674-0429 312-670-9660
Harambe Jahard Suburban Afric.-Amer. Bi/Gay/Men 708-445-2584
Horizons Community Services 773-929-HELP
Howard Brown Health Center 773-871-5777
Imani Umoja, Chicago Afric.-Amer. Bi/Gay men 773-907-8993
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund 312-663-4413
Last House on the Block G&L in recovery 773-373-0024
Lesbian Community Cancer Project 773-561-4662
Les Femmes Amies 312-232-0787
Men of All Colors Together/Chicago, PO Box
408922, 60640-8922 312-409-6916
Minority Outreach Intervention Proj, FAX 312-986-0928
1255 S. Wabash, Suite 2-S, 60605 312-986-0661
National Black L&G Leadership Forum 202-483-6786
Onyx/Chicago leather/men, 1340 Irving, #188, 60613
PAC Social Club, South Side for mature lesbians
of African Descent, PACSOCIALC@aol.com
Parents, Friends & Family of L&Gs/South Side 773-488-7711
Phrasority parties for all lesbians and gays 312-409-6637
Roseland Community Hospital 773-995-6469
Stop AIDS/African American Program
1718 E. 75th St., 60649 773-752-7867
Test Positive Aware/Brothers United in Support
HIV/AIDS 773-404-8726
TransGenesis trans support 312-839-5541
United Faith Affinitas, Black L/G/Bi, 1448 E. 53rd, 773-878-7839
Yahimba, 1012-1/2 Dodge, Evanston, IL 60202 847-328-7715
Women of All Colors Together 773-267-0976, (708) 869-9120
Womyn Space: Lez Be In, a sister circle 773-874-2222
Writers Collective—gay, trans, lesbians of color 312-409-2457

**No
Cost!**

HIV

Counseling Testing and Referral

**Chicago Department of
Public Health**

*Anonymous Testing
and Confidential Referrals.
Call Today for an Appointment.*

**Do you know your HIV status? Free HIV counseling,
testing and referrals are available at these clinics:**

Uptown
845 W. Wilson
744-7533

Lakeview
2861 N. Clark
744-8829

West Town
2418 W. Division
744-5464

Near Southside
1306 S. Michigan
747-0103

Mid South
641 W. 63rd
747-0282

Roseland
200 E. 115th
747-2817

For more information contact
the Chicago Department of Health
312-747-AIDS (TDD 744-2960)
Also available are health educators and
HIV/AIDS educational materials.
City of Chicago, Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Get healthy, Stay healthy

The HIV care program of Michael Reese Hospital

Provides comprehensive,
multidisciplinary services to individuals
and families living with HIV disease.
Services offered at our facility include:
primary care, acute hospital care, mental
health services, case management,
nutritional counseling, home infusion
therapy, hospice, pastoral care, support
groups and pharmacy services.

For further information, or to schedule an appointment,
call (312) 791-3455

No insurance? We can help!

A program of the Research and Education Foundation
of The Michael Reese Medical Staff
A Ryan White care act funded agency

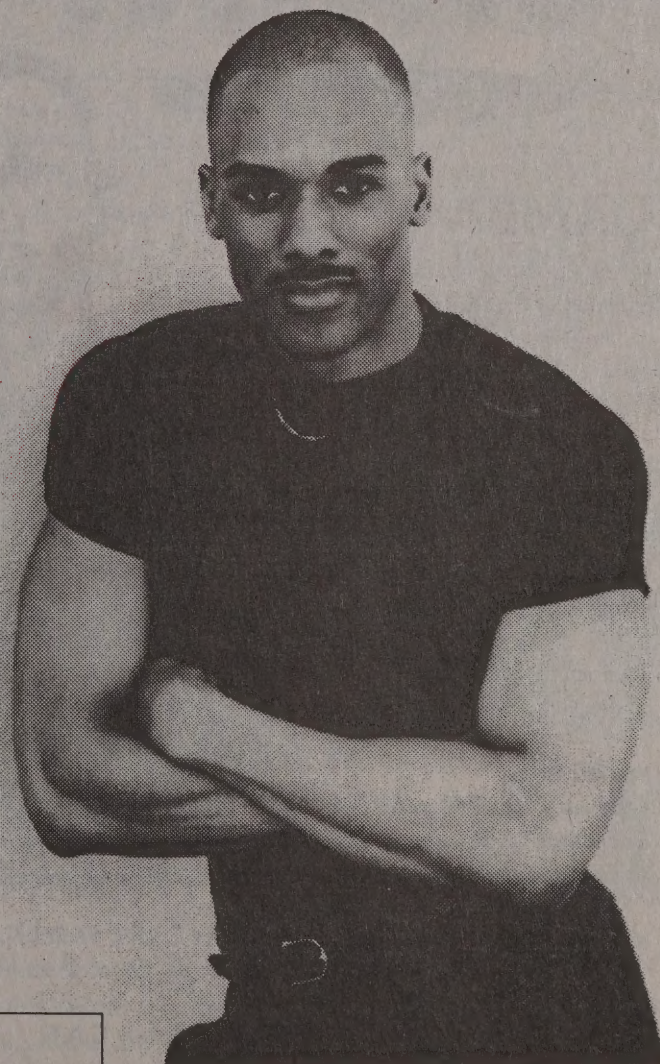
BLACK

LINES

FEB. 1998, Vol. 3, No. 1 Free/\$2 outside Chicago EXPRESSIONS FROM BLACK GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDERED LIFE

BOYKIN STEPS DOWN

Keith Boykin is stepping down as head of the National Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum, after this month's national conference. See page 24 for an interview.



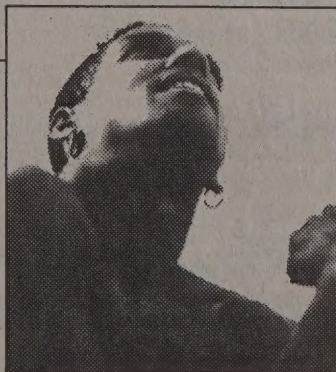
INSIDE

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**Dancer/Choreographer
David Rousseve performs
his newest work in
Chicago Feb. 19-21.
See page 17 for an interview.**

BROTHERS C.A.N.

Community Awareness Network

GAMBA

A men's discussion group provided in collaboration with Nu'man, a program of the Minority Outreach Intervention Project.

**Held at MOIP Offices,
1255 S. Wabash**

**Wednesday,
February 11, 7-9 p.m**

Interracial Dating:
Finding Love or Selling Out?

**Wednesday,
February 25, 7-9 p.m.**
Should We Penetrate?
Alternative Sexual Activity

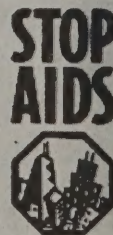


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Brothers Safely C.A.N., a workshop for safer sex/prevention education.

Brothers United Together, a workshop for HIV positive men.

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Health Center

BLACK LINES

February, 1998
Volume 3, Number 1

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Published by Lambda Publications, publishers of: OUTLINES, Nightlines Weekly, En La Vida, OUT! Resource Guide, CLOUT! Business Report

DEADLINES:

Editorial: 5th of each month

Advertising: the 10th

AVAILABLE LAST WED. Each MONTH

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CHICAGO, IL 60657 USA.

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BLACKlines

is on the World Wide Web:
<http://www.suba.com/~outlines/>

**We are always
seeking photos, art,
cartoons, columns,
poetry, press releases,
calendar items ...**

BLACKlines

DEADLINE is the 5th of
each month for articles,
calendar, photos, art,
poetry, viewpoints, etc.

Material used on a
space-available basis.

HIV Eradication: The Impossible Dream?



1970s revolutionary Angela Davis is now officially in our building—she talks about her private life as a lesbian, and the new generation of activists, in February's Out. See page 19. BELOW: A Real Read performs in a play about Essex Hemphill. See page 6.



Yes, I'd like to subscribe to BLACKlines

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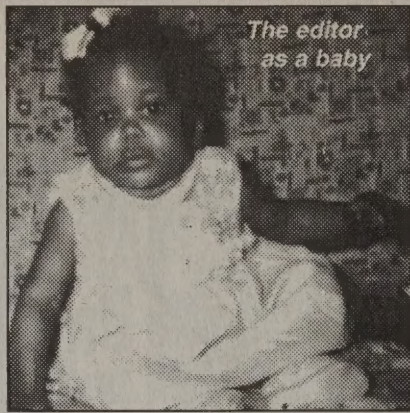
1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657.

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Editorial

by LaJaunessee
Jordan

BLACKLINES is now entering its third year in publication. We have reached this point because of much hard work and support by many. Tracy Baim, who already had several successful publications, approached the Black lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgendered communities with the idea of beginning a publication especially for us, which would be published by Lambda Publications. Some wondered (aloud) why a white woman made that suggestion and what her motivations were. People asked who would have "control" of the publication. I have been a part of BLACKLINES since that very first planning meeting. I can tell you that if anyone has "control" of BLACKLINES, it is the Black les/bi/gay/trans community



The editor
as a baby

in Chicago and beyond. Tracy does not say, "You have to do this," or "You can't do that." Although she (nor myself) would allow (for example) something in poor taste to be printed. BLACKLINES belongs to the community.

Tracy cares about people—in general—and about human-rights issues. She is often informing me of issues related to Africa-Americans that I have not yet heard about. She saw an opportunity to assist our community in producing a

vehicle to share information about issues important to us and to showcase our talents. And, although Tracy is a hare and I am a tortoise, we work well together. She is to be commended for her hard work and dedication to BLACKLINES.

An open invitation was made to all who wanted to be a part of any aspect of our pub-

lication. Individuals decided what areas they wanted to work in. Those who wanted to be on the editorial advisory committee were. Those that wanted to design the publication did. And those who wanted to write did. We had a lot of discussion about the name of our publication. Patricia Mickey suggested BLACKLINES saying, "You know, NIGHTLINES, OUTLINES, BLACKLINES." It was a hit. So we had our name. We decided to have the first issue available for Black History Month. And BLACKLINES became a reality.

We have had two years of informing many of news and injustices, writers sharing their personal stories to help let others know they are not alone, informing individuals of cultural and social events, sharing information about services provided by various organizations, sponsoring and co-sponsoring events, and on and on.

Even though I have top-billing on the "credits" page, I certainly couldn't make all of

this magic happen alone. In addition to being a senior news reporter, Robert Schultz does a lot of behind-the-scenes stuff, above and beyond the call of duty. Israel Wright, who has coordinated photography, has done a great job and he helps things run more smoothly. Jon Dallas, Brian McGee, and P.J. Englebrecht have stepped in during last-minute situations and at other times to save the day.

Now many Black les/bi/gay/trans people are being heard who may have felt they didn't have a voice, in the past. And people are listening as exhibited by the letters, calls, e-mail and the in-person comments and compliments. If you think we're doing something worthwhile, support our advertisers and let them know you saw them in BLACKLINES because without them, there is no us. Also, consider getting a subscription for yourself or a loved one in or out-of-town and in or out of the closet. It comes discretely wrapped.

Special thanks to Tracy Baim, Lambda Publications, our readers, everyone who has contributed in any way to BLACKLINES, including supporters, friends and lovers, because those positive strokes help us to do what we do.

Celebrate Black History Month by attending at least one event. You can find many as you read the pages of BLACKLINES. We normally have a big BLACKLINES celebration during Black History

Month, but there are so many other special events happening throughout February that we did not want to conflict with them (see page 14 for a calendar). We'll have some kind of celebration in March or April. Look for details in the next edition.

THANK YOU!

The Lesbian Community Cancer Project

Wishes to Thank YOU and All Our Supporters for Making

Coming Out Against Cancer '98 A SUCCESS!

Special thanks to:

A Taste of Heaven * Afrocentric Bookstore * Bibelat * Burstein Family Foundation * Chicago Trolley * 57th Street Books * George Jewell Catering * Great Lakes Wine Company * Lost & Found * Mary Shanahan * Miller Brewing Company * Prairie Moon Bookstore * Print It * Red Top Valet Service * Roscoe's * Schori Press * Starbucks Coffee * The Pride Agenda * Thousand Waves Spa * Unabridged Bookstore * Women and Children First

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VOLUNTEERS who made it all possible!

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***Celebrating our BROTHERhood -
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**A discussion group for
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**Meetings 2nd & 4th Wednesdays,
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BRIEFLY ...

Gerber-Hart Celebrates African-American History Month

The Gerber-Hart Library African-American and Black Archives & Collection will host a reception at the DuSable Museum Friday, Feb. 27, 740 E. 56th Place, in Washington Park.

The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 9:30 p.m. Call the Gerber-Hart Library at (773) 883-3003 to RSVP. Refreshments will be served.

Community members will have the opportunity to meet Kathleen Rose Winter, the Curator of the African-American and Black Archives & Collection. She will be recruiting volunteers for the library and for the African-American and Black sub-committee.

Rustin Awards Nominees Selected, GCC Event Feb. 6

The Board of Directors of the Greater Chicago Committee announces that the ballots have been tabulated and the following are the nominees for the 1998 Bayard Rustin Awards.

Business of the Year: The Private Baker, BLACKLINES, and Club Escape; Party of the Year: Onyx Blackout, C.C. & Verna's Backyard Party, and The Mack Party; Social Organization of the Year: Phrasority, Brothers United in Support, and Executive Sweet; DJ of the Year: Ralph White, Ron Carroll, and Tyrone Mixx; Female of the Year: Jackie "Mickey" Johnson, C.C. Carter, and Sherri Jackson; Male of the Year: Kenny David, Sanford Gaylord, and John Smiley; Community Service Organization of the Year: AFFINITY, Brothers United in Support, and Brother 2 Brother; Community Activist of the Year: Michael O'Connor, Bennett Williams, and Renae Ogletree; Georgia Black Award of the Year: Lorraine Sade Baskerville, Ramona Hernandez, and Lynnell Long; and Person of the Year: Mary Morten, Marc Loveless, and Clarence Woods.

The Bayard Rustin Awards were conceived by the Greater Chicago Committee as a way of recognizing the contributions and achievements of the community.

The awards ceremony is Friday, Feb. 6, 1998, at the DuSable Museum, 740 E. 56th Place. Fashion designer Jermicko Shoshanna will be the keynote speaker. Tickets are \$20 per person. Call (312) 670-9660.

CORE Committee Seeks New Members

Nominations for participation on the CORE Center's Community Action Committee are being sought. The CORE Center, a state-of-the-art free standing outpatient healthcare facility for the prevention, care, and research of HIV and related infectious diseases, is anticipated to open during the late fall of 1998. Contact Kathy Gorosh, the CORE Center Project Director (312) 633-3378 for applications by January 30.

Unity Confab April 3-4

The 1998 Unity Conference will be April 3 & 4. Keynote speakers will be Dr. Marjorie Hill and Phill Wilson.

Hill is a psychologist and assistant vice president for special populations at the New York City Health and Hospital

A Real Read in Essex Hemphill play

Essex Hemphill remains one of the searing and visionary African-American poets of our lifetimes, chronicling the humor, longing, and rage of society in the early years of this decade. When his writing was matched up with the performance skills of Larry Duckette, unforgettable magic was created.

Bailiwick Repertory presents A Real Read in *We Heard the Night Outside*, Duckette's intriguing and imaginative investigation into the love and strength that Duckette and Hemphill shared on-stage and off.

Having spent 10 years beside Hemphill, Duckette creates an impressionistic look at Black life and art in this century. He explores the demons of the artist, and the passion of the poet, employing Hemphill's own Cinque (pronounced Sin-Q) technique in the piece.

The play runs Feb. 8-Feb. 15. Call (773) 883-1090.

A Real Read is now a resident arts organization of the Bailiwick Arts Center, and celebrates their continuing successful relationship with Bailiwick's Pride Series. Sanford Gaylord plays Perez, the actor/performer in *We Heard the Night Outside*. Byron Stewart plays Paradise, the poet, and C.C. Carter plays the M.C.



Gaylord, Stewart, Carter

Corp, the nation's largest public health network. She is the former director of the N.Y. City Mayor's Office for Lesbian and Gay Issues. She negotiated the inclusion of a lesbian and gay contingent in their St. Patrick's Day Parade and Mayor Dinkins

Marched with the group.

Wilson is an activist and is director of public policy for AIDS Project Los Angeles. He is co-founder and former co-chair of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum.

Ogletree Honored

Renae Ogletree, a Black lesbian activist, will receive a Human Relations Award at the 53rd Annual Luncheon and Human Relations Awards, from the city of Chicago, Jan. 29. Bill Lann Lee, President Clinton's recently named Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Enforcement, U.S. Department of Justice, will serve as keynote speaker. The luncheon will be at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel, 17 E. Monroe, from noon to 2 p.m.

The five honorees will be Dr. Michael Kotzin, Continental Air Transport, and Ogletree; Laura S. Washington (The Bernadine Washington Communications Award) and The National Conference (The Thomas and Eleanor Wright Award).

ANC calls for gay marriage, other gay rights in South Africa

South Africa's ruling African National Congress passed a wide-ranging resolution on gay equality Dec. 20 that includes a call for legalization of same-sex marriage.

Delegates to the ANC's 50th National Conference in Mafeking voted to push for:

- ▼ "The recognition of same-sex relationships for worker benefits (e.g. housing, medical aid and bereavement leave);
- ▼ "Custody and access, maintenance, immigration and adoption rights for lesbian and gay persons and the recognition of lesbian and gay families;
- ▼ "Establishing the equal right to marry for people of the same sex;
- ▼ "The protection of lesbian and gay youth from discrimination at home, at school, on the streets and in the media;
- ▼ "Equalising the age of consent [and];
- ▼ "Running programmes to counter anti-gay prejudice and inclusive sexuality education programmes for all scholars."

South Africa is the only nation that bans discrimination based on sexual orientation within its constitution. — Rex Wockner



PRESENTS

Hearts Party Weekend '98

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

SACRED HEART

CONVENT, 1629 W. ELSTON AVE., 10 PM ~ 4 AM

DJ: BOSTON'S JOE D'ESPINOSA



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

THE HEARTS PARTY

THE UPTOWN THEATER, 1816 N. BROADWAY AVE., 10 PM ~ 7 AM

DJ: MARK PICCHIOTTI



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

BREAKFAST WITH BUC

VINYL, 1615 N. CLYBOURN AVE. (AT NORTH AVE.), 7 AM ~ 3 PM

DJ: BUC



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

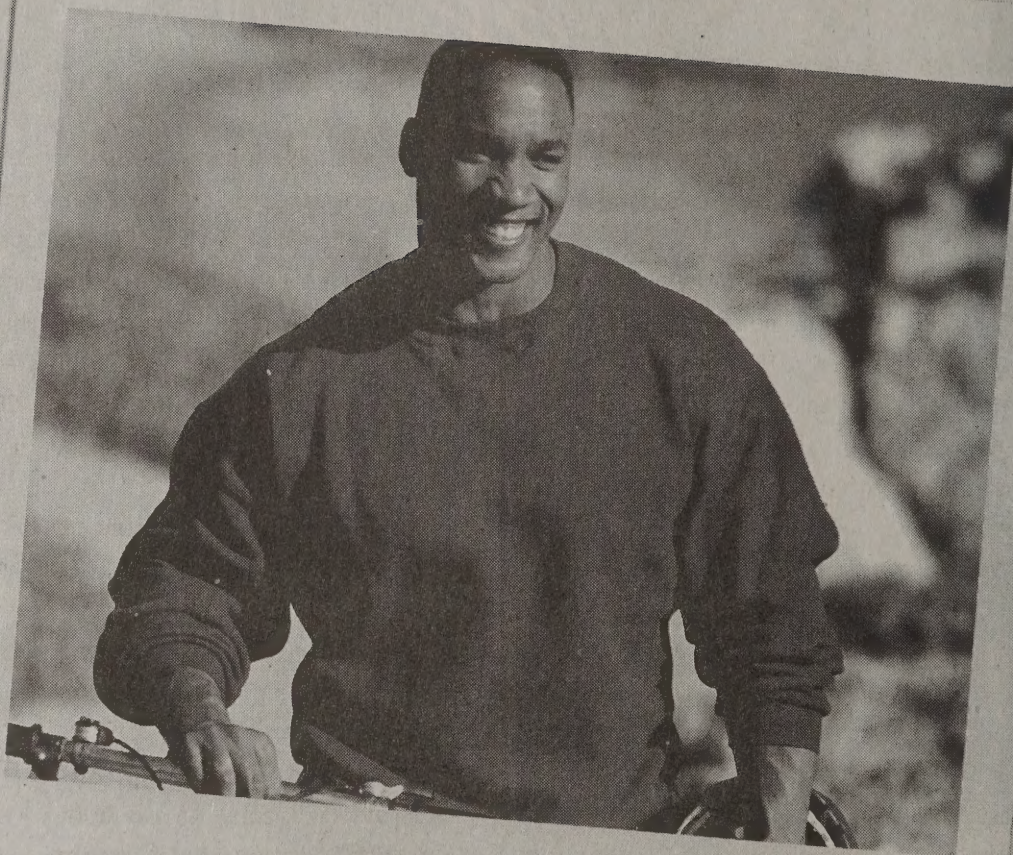
AND THE BEAT GOES ON...

1513 N. KINGSBURY, 3 PM ~ 10 PM

DJ: SUSAN MORABITO

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REGULAR SUNDAY NIGHT EVENT "GET UP" FROM 10 PM TO 4 AM
FEATURING MONTREAL DJ MARK ANTHONY AND CHICAGO'S OWN TERT BRISTOL

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"Why should I prolong my life if the medicine will keep me from enjoying it?"

If this is what you believe, then here's something new to consider.

Treatments and what we know about HIV are changing. We've learned that even if you look good and feel healthy, the virus is fighting every day against your immune system—a fight it may someday win.

VIRACEPT is a powerful new protease inhibitor now available for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug therapy is warranted. VIRACEPT is generally well-tolerated, is taken three times a day with your normal meals or light snacks, and requires no special dietary restrictions.

Most importantly, VIRACEPT is effective. In many people, VIRACEPT lowered the amount of HIV in the blood to levels below the limit of detection of the test used, and substantially increased CD4 cell counts after 24 weeks of triple combination therapy. And in laboratory studies, HIV obtained from five patients that became resistant to VIRACEPT was not resistant to other protease inhibitors. (The clinical significance of laboratory studies of protease inhibitor resistance and changes in viral RNA

levels in blood has not been established for VIRACEPT. The virus may still be present in other organ systems.)

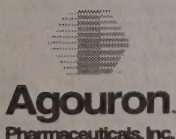
People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea in approximately 20% of people in clinical trials. There are some common medications and some AIDS-related medications you should not take with VIRACEPT. It is important to discuss with your doctor all other medications that you are taking.

We still can't make any long-term promises, since it is not yet known whether taking VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. But we can tell you that yesterday's HIV beliefs are quickly becoming today's myths.

Talk to your doctor about VIRACEPT, and begin to consider something new. Or for more details, call toll free **1-888-VIRACEPT** or visit **www.agouron.com**.

VIRACEPT nelfinavir mesylate

Refer to the important information on the next page.



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VIRACEPT

nelfinavir mesylate

Information for Patients About VIRACEPT® (Vi-ra-cept) Generic Name: nelfinavir (nei-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), EpiVir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane® (terfenadine, for allergies)
 - Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
 - Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
 - Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
 - Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute® Cardioquin® Quinidex® and others
 - Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
 - Halcion® (triazolam)
 - Versed® (midazolam)
- Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.
- Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®
- This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
 - Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
 - Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
- These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.
- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")
- If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- EpiVir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddi)

If you are taking both Videx (ddi) and VIRACEPT: Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

- Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

- Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do not have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat constant over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, you should not miss any doses. However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight		Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets		
Kg	Lb					
7	to < 8.5	15.5	to <18.5	4	1	-
8.5	to <10.5	18.5	to <23	5	1¼	-
10.5	to <12	23	to <26.5	6	1½	-
12	to <14	26.5	to <31	7	1¾	-
14	to <16	31	to <35	8	2	-
16	to <18	35	to <39.5	9	2¼	-
18	to <23	39.5	to <50.5	10	2½	2
	≥23		≥50.5	15	3¾	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

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Issued 10/7/97

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South Side Activist Killed

by P.J. Engelbrecht

The body of Jerry Christmas, 71, was discovered Sunday, Jan. 11, in his apartment in the 4800 block of South Lake Park.

Theodore Teague, 20, of 5114 S. Paulina, was arrested late Jan. 12. At a Jan. 14 hearing, at Branch 66 at the Criminal Courts Building, 26th and California, Teague's bond was set at \$950,000. He is presently being held at the Cook County Jail and is scheduled to appear in Branch 66 Violence Court Feb. 3.

Teague allegedly murdered Christmas, who was a bisexual, at the victim's Hyde Park apartment several days before Christmas' body was discovered Jan. 11.

Christmas was reportedly found naked, lying in a fetal position beside his bed, with a rope around his neck. He had been stabbed in the back and head. CPD Area One Sgt. Wolfe said Christmas' death was caused by "multiple stab wounds."

"No comment," replied Wolfe when asked Jan. 12 about what part the 'noose' may have played in the killing. Wolfe said he didn't know whether Christmas had been raped and, in any case, wouldn't comment on that possibility.

Christmas' apartment had been ransacked, and his car and keys were missing, presumed stolen. Reportedly, Teague was driving Christmas' missing Lexus when he was arrested Jan. 12.

Christmas was a retired teacher. Both African-Americans, the victim and the accused murderer had been acquainted, apparently for some years.

According to the Cook County Medical Examiner's officer, Christmas' body was released to South Side funeral

director A.R. Leak Jan. 17.

Christmas is believed to have been dead for three days before his body was discovered. The SUN-TIMES reported that a friend of Christmas had become concerned after "not [seeing] him for several days" and asked the high-rise security guards to check on him. The guards subsequently found Christmas' body.

Neighbors told the SUN-TIMES that in the building, "security is tight," which suggests that Christmas may have known his attacker and admitted the killer to his apartment himself.

'Shocking' crime

News of Christmas' murder shocked gay activist Alden Bell, leaving him speechless. Bell had known Christmas only since August 1997, but had found Christmas to be "fun-loving, [with a] strange sense of humor, intelligent, [and] talkative." He said Christmas was a bisexual who had once been married.

"I met him because of BLACKLINES," Bell began, after a stunned pause (Bell is a contributor to BLACKLINES). "He probably saw an ad about Adodi [there]." Christmas had recently joined that organization for African-American gay men.

"He came to last year's [Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays] Unity Conference ... and had been coming to [Adodi] meetings and was scheduled to facilitate the meeting in June ... [on] interracial relationships. ... I just talked to him last week!" Bell suddenly realized, when speaking with OUTLINES/BLACKLINES a few days after the murder.

Adodi members especially valued 71-year-old Christmas. "He was important to us in that one of the things we try to

do is bridge the gaps in our community ... [and] create places where we can share [between generations]," said Bell. But the murder opens another gap, instead.

Christmas was "goodhearted," said Advisory Council on Gay & Lesbian Issues member Shelton Watson, who had met Christmas at last year's CBLG conference and at Adodi meetings, but did not know him well.

"He did what he thought he could do" to contribute to the community, Watson said, noting that Christmas had been involved with many Chicago lesbian organizations, but not deeply so. Yet he was a familiar figure to many.

Apparently comfortable financially, Christmas was a retired teacher, residing in the same neighborhood where the

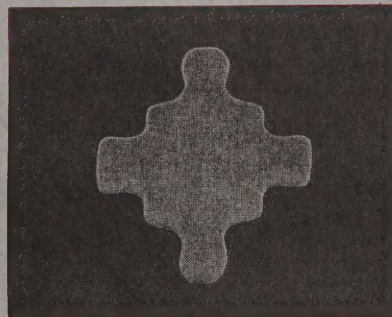
late Mayor Harold Washington once lived. Last summer, he had travelled to Toronto. In November, he sent Bell a postcard of the Himalayas when he travelled to Tibet and to New Delhi, Calcutta and the Taj Mahal in India.

"He didn't strike you as a person who was flamboyant ... but not struggling [financially]," Bell said. Yet Bell also noted he "got the sense that [Christmas] knew some people who were 'not his intellectual equals'." That is, Christmas may have socialized with a rougher crowd than one might have anticipated.

Make sure your events are publicized in BLACKLINES ... deadline is the 10th of the month prior to publication. FAX (773) 871-7609, e-mail outlines@suba.com, or send to BLACKLINES/OUTLINES, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657.

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Chicago AIDS Death Rate Declines Sharply, Including Among Blacks

by P.J. Engelbrecht

A Chicago Department of Public Health "provisional data" report released in January reveals that the rate of local deaths attributed to HIV/AIDS has fallen precipitously. In the first half of 1997, 210 Chicagoans died of AIDS-related causes, compared to 330 during the preceding six-month period. During the first half of 1996, 453 had died.

"As far as we know, Chicago is the first city in the U.S. to show a sharp AIDS mortality decline in 1997," said CDPH director of epidemiology Steven Whitman, Ph.D., noting that the declining trend was first observed last year.

The new 1997 figures show a 36% drop in overall AIDS mortalities over the previous six months, and over a 50% decrease compared to the same

period a year before. Chicago AIDS death rates have not been so low since 1988, reported the CDPH.

Deaths among men fell 41%, though deaths among women fell just 16% in early 1997. However, women's mortality had risen slightly during the previous six months of 1996, so even a small decline is noteworthy. The gender gap may be partly attributable to the system's failure to address women's specific health needs.

Higher death rates attributed to "societal disparities among racial and ethnic groups" were pronounced in 1996 data, but first-half 1997 deaths among African-Americans and Hispanics have begun to slow at a rate more nearly equal to the slow-down in white men.

Between Jan. 1 and July 1,

1997, AIDS-related deaths among African-Americans dropped 35% compared to the previous six months, the same rate of decrease as for white men, and deaths among Hispanics fell by 40%.

The 1997 data reflects increasingly effective AIDS therapies, such as antiretroviral agents and protease inhibitors, multi-drug "cocktail" regimes and other prophylactic medications. But Whitman cautioned that the new mortality declines may not presage a long-term pattern. HIV strains resistant to current drug treatments will probably arise over time.

"The simple fact is that there is no substitute for basic HIV prevention measures, especially using condoms and avoiding needle sharing," he said.

CDPH acting assistant commissioner for HIV/AIDS Anne Meegan agreed, pointing out that "the new protease inhibitors and other drugs clearly are showing an excellent promise ... Yet everyone needs to remember that new HIV infections are still occurring. The tragedy is that those are all preventable.

CDPH officials correlated the mortality rate declines indirectly to the increasing resources the city has devoted to combating HIV/AIDS. In 1989, Chicago spent \$4 million; in 1997, the total had swollen to \$29 million—an increase of over 700% in eight years.

Much of the expanded funding came from federal programs such as the Ryan White Care Act. Illinois also pays for HIV and AIDS medications for persons with limited incomes.

The CDPH itself either manages or funds seven primary care HIV/AIDS clinics in the city, all offering service on a "sliding scale" basis.

9th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BENEFIT DANCE 1998



Saturday, March 7, 1998

8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Congress Hotel, The Great Hall

520 S. Michigan, Chicago

\$20 advance, \$25 at the door. No Personal Checks at door.

DJ Laura Branch ~ Dancing ~ Appetizers ~ Cash Bar ~ Craft Bazaar

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Tickets are available from members of each organization and at Women and Children First.

Call (773) 509-6881

A fundraising event sponsored by: The Literary Exchange, AFFINITY, Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network, and the Women's Assistance Fund. Co-spons. OUTLINES/BLACKLINES/EN LA VIDA/NIGHTLINES. Stay all night! Special room rate available if you mention IWD.



MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE

Saturday, Feb. 7

Literary Exchange Annual Black Herstory Month Celebration

An evening with the Literary Exchange—
an extravaganza of poetic interpretations,
musical delights and flights of fancy.



M. Eliza Hamilton

Saturday, March 21

Women of Color Poetry

Join nationally renowned poets M. Eliza Hamilton, Duriel Harris, Melysha Sargis and others in an evening of music and words that recall and reinvent who we are as womyn-loving-womyn, keepers of the gates, lovers of life. Bring a friend to share in an evening of memory, laughter, ancestral callings, and wisdom. Copies of M. Eliza' latest book, *The Last Time You Left Me*, will be available for purchase.



1650 West Foster
Ebenezer Lutheran Church

Showtime 7:30 p.m.

Women & Children Only. Suggested Donation. 773-973-9934

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Health to all our partners in
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- ▼ Clubhouse Players
- ▼ Escapades
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- ▼ Hideaway II
- ▼ Nutbush
- ▼ OurVoice Youth Group
- ▼ Pride Agenda Books
- ▼ PRIDE Youth
- ▼ Prism Youth Network
- ▼ Men of All Colors Together,
Chicago (MACT)
- ▼ Minority Outreach
Intervention Project (MOIP)
- ▼ Oak Park Area Lesbian & Gay
Association (OPALGA)
- ▼ Red Dog
- ▼ REVIEW
- ▼ Stop AIDS Chicago
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CALENDAR

Wednesday, Jan. 28

Lesbian Avengers Special Town Meeting to discuss proactive response to Girlcott issues raised by the Women's Action Coalition & the Avengers during Pride last June. 7:30pm. Horizons, 961 W. Montana. Info (312) 409-3705.

Thursday, Jan. 29

Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues Luncheon and Human Relations Awards Presentation, honorees include Renae Ogletree, Laura S. Washington. (312) 744-7911.

Club inta presents "An Intimate Affair," the women's place to meet and greet—cuz girls just wanna have fun! Music by Chicago's hottest DJ, lavish buffet, private rooms available to rent, drink specials, valet pkg. Thursdays 8pm-Untill. 308 W Erie. Info (312) 664-6595.

Hoxie's Serious Southern BBQ owner/chef Kathy Webb offers 2-hr smoke cooking demo, discusses rubs, woods/meats, & bbq history in US—recipes & prize ribs samples shared! Free event, but reservations reqd. 7-9pm. 587 N York Rd., Elmhurst. Rsvp (630) 617-5230.

Friday, Jan. 30

Columbia College Chicago & On Do La Productions "The Awakening" Hip Hop Winter Jam brings together Chicago & New York artists for the 1st time. Celeb underground line-up includes NY's Lord Finesse and Diggin In The Crates crew, OC, Rubbermon, All Natural & A.C. Illa, plus DJ Roc Raider of the X Men & Chi-town DJs "Wild" Boar & PNS—in a rare all-ages appearance! Promo giveaways in the house. Proceeds benefit CC Scholarship Fund for Chicago Public High School students. Doors open 6pm; \$20 adv, \$25 at door. Milwaukee. Tix (312) 559-1212.

CORE Center Nominations being sought for HIV Community Action Committee. (312) 633-3378.

Rainbow Room Salsa Fridays, \$2 cover. (773) 271-4378.

Saturday, Jan. 31

Art Institute of Chicago "Cerebral Stool, Ghana; Akan," 1pm, Gallery 101; (312) 443-3600.

"Carol Day" reception celebrates accomplishments of Illinois' US Senator Carol Moseley-Braun, & helps raise campaign funds for her tough re-election campaign this yr. 6-9:30pm, \$50 (\$500 for private reception & photo with Braun). In the Hilton International Ballroom, Chicago Hilton & Towers Hotel, 720 S Michigan. (312) 986-9898.

Illinois Federation for Human Rights 1st Annual Benefit Gala, "A Greater State of Freedom," at the Hotel Inter-Continental, 505 N Michigan Ave. (773) 477-7173.

The Vix, A Jazz Supperclub presents Clyde George. 2814 N Halsted. (773) 529-3999.

Twin Cities Wisconsin-Chicago AIDS Ride Orientation for July's annual ride, 11 (773) 880-8812.

Sunday, Feb. 1

Art Institute of Chicago exhibit of Coretta Scott King award-winner Jan Spivey Gilchrist's *Illustrations*,

111 S Michigan. (312) 443-3600.

Chicago Cultural Center "The Grand YeYe" is the theme of African-American History Month festival, "Pipeline to the Creator," discussion on women in Chicago's religious community & gospel concert featuring The Barrett Sisters & Jesse D Stanford & Friends. 3pm, Preston Bradley Hall, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington. Info (312) 744-1430.

Club inta presents Boys Night Out—come one, come all! Music by Chicago House DJ Drell Tyler, lavish buffet, private rooms available to rent, drink specials, valet pkg. Sun. 308 W Erie. (312) 664-6595.

Northwestern Diocese of the Independent Holy Catholic Church celebrates a Mass of Healing and Anointing (773) 721-5383 or (312) 347-6071.

WACT (Womyn of All Colors/Cultures Together) Brunch #59 gets womyn together! Details/directions/info (773) 784-8922.

Women's Creativity Growth Group led by Judith Bobbe, LCPC, & Marilee Snyder, LCSW, (847) 604-3602 for info/stay date.

Monday, Feb. 2

Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center Groups for sexual minority youth: Gay-Les-Bi support group meets 7-9pm Mondays at Aunt Martha's YSC, 4343 Lincoln Highway, Suite 340, Matteson. Info, Gloria (708) 747-2708, x 573.

Chicago Cultural Center "The Grand YeYe" "A Woman of the Theater: Abena Joan Brown" interview & performance, 12:15-1:45pm, Cassidy Theater. ALSO "Divas of Dance" panel discussion w/ leading Af-Am women choreographers. 5:30pm, Cassidy Theater. Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington. (312) 744-1430.

Lesbian Community Cancer Project Holistic Stop Smoking Program for lesbian & non-lesbian women begins; (773) 561-4662.

Tuesday, Feb. 3

Art Institute of Chicago "God's Trombones—Words by Poet JW Johnson & Painter Aaron Douglas," 6p, 111 S Michigan. (312) 443-3600

Chicago Cultural Center "Zora Is My Name!" film starring Ruby Dee as playwright/folklorist Zora Neale Hurston (with Louis Gossett jr.), 5-6:30pm, Cassidy Theater. ALSO today, (312) 744-1430.

DuSable Museum The Muntu Dance Theater performs ancient & contemporary interpretations of African dances. 10am, (773) 561-4662.

Wednesday, Feb. 4

Berlin Women's Obsession Night.

DuSable Museum Maggie Brown presents "LEGACY: Our Wealth of Music," an exciting anthology of Af-Am music & history combining singing & acting. 10am, \$3.50. 740 E. 56th Pl. (773) 947-0600.

Guild Complex "Sterling Plump with bluesman Jimmie Lee Robinson." (773) 278-2210.

Midwest Society of Professional Consultants Tony Brown will address the topic "Who's Motivating You?" (312) 201-0596.

Thursday, Feb. 5

Art Institute of Chicago African

American Heritage Month Belmont. (312) 409-6916.

Northeastern Ill. University Celebration of African American History concert features Jimmy Ellis Ensemble, Willie Pickens, Willie Brown jr., & Sharon Hamilton. 7:30pm, \$10 (sr/student \$8). NEIU Auditorium. Free pkg in Lot D (enter campus from Bryn Mawr or Foster). (773) 794-3042.

Old Town School of Folk Music presents Ali Hassan Kuban & Funkdesi. "The Egyptian James Brown" (773) 525-7793.

School of the Art Institute Video series "Fierce Cravings: Deconstructing Black Sexuality in film & Video" offers 6pm Friday screenings followed by lecture, and 12pm Sat. lecture followed by screenings, of works by early & contemporary film/video artists, beginning Feb 6 & 7 with "Sexuality of the Savage." Other video programs throughout Feb. John M Flaxman Screening Rm, SA1, 112 S. Michigan bldg. (312) 443-3703.

DuSable Museum of African American History "Back to Bebo" presents 4 jazz musicians tracing development of jazz from Dixieland to modern improv, & compare jazz to classical music development. 10am, \$3.50. 740 E. 56th Pl. Info (773) 947-0600.

Friday, Feb. 6

1998 Bayard Rustin Awards will be presented at the DuSable



Fri., Feb. 6, Dianne Reeves at Cubby Bear, (773) 327-1662.

Museum of African American History, to recognize members and supporters of the African American lesbian/gay/trans community. President's Award (Business) will honor Aldeen Bell; Black Kettle Award (Arts) goes to A Real Read; Bd. of Directors Award (Health) to be presented to Sidney Thomas; and Rev Jesse Jackson Sr will receive the Founder's Award. Jermicko Shoshanna, Apparel Industry Bd of Ill 1997 Designer of the Year delivers keynote. \$20 includes reception, entertainment & presentation; advance tix available. Info (312) 670-9660 or write the Greater Chicago Committee, PO Box 146642, Chicago 60614.

Columbia College Chicago celebrates African heritage: artist Mitchell Nelson exhibits tribal spirit-inspired work thru Feb 26. Free. Hokin Annex, 623 S Wabash. Info (312) 344-7222.

Cubby Bear presents "An Evening with Dianne Reeves" to celebrate Valentine's Day early. Gourmet dinner/show pkg available with preferred seating 1st ten rows. 1059 W Addison. Tix (773) 327-1662.

Men of All Colors Together—Chicago 7:30-9:30pm. At Ann

Sather's Restaurant, 929 W Belmont. (312) 409-6916.

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Saturday, Feb. 7

All We Want is to Make Us Free, an evening of freedom music presented by Chgo Center for Arts Policy & Comm. Renewal Society. Trinity United Church of Ch., 400 W 95th St. (312) 427-4830.

Art Institute of Chicago Artist's Studio workshop, "African Printmaking"—make a print inspired by carvings of African Obas (kings) on carved elephant tusk. 12:30-3:30pm today; also on Feb 14, 15, 22, 28, & Mar 1. (312) 443-3600.

Bryan Davis Memorial Foundation "A Bridge to Knowledge" benefits the Greater Chicago Committee. Honored guest will be blues educator (& BB King daughter) Shirley King. 7pm, \$25. At Ann Sather's Restaurant, 929 W Belmont. Tix/info (773) 338-0637. The BDMF is dedicated to prevention of HIV/AIDS & of the prejudices surrounding the virus.

Chicago Cultural Center "Legends of Music: Interpreting the Legends" concert with Chicago greats Geraldine de Haas, Alfreda Burke, Sasha Dalton performing jazz & classical tribute to Sarah Vaughn, Jessie Norman, Marian Anderson, noon-1:30pm, Cassidy Theater. ALSO "Legends of Music: Sun in My Back Door" blues concert with Lynne Jordan & Teh Shivers, Katherine Davis & Deitra Farr, honoring Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey, Sippie Wallace, 2pm, Cassidy Theater. Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington. (312) 744-1430.

Chicago Friendship Reunion Committee hosts African American Heritage Celebration, featuring open bar/refreshments. Attire: African-optional. Free pkg/security. 9pm-2am, \$20 donation. At St Elizabeth Hall, 41st & Wabash. Tix/info Ken (773) 588-2706 or Greg (773) 264-2832.

DuSable Museum of African American History celebrates Black History Month with outstanding line-up of events throughout February: today, the museum holds a special "Collectors' Clinic" to educate individuals on the importance of preserving historical & cultural artifacts. Participants will learn the basics of caring for & preserving items which may be of museum quality. 12 noon, \$20 (\$12 members). 740 E. 56th Pl. Info (773) 947-0600.

Humboldt Park Branch, Chicago Public Library presents spoken-word artist Regie Gibson (whose life inspired the movie *Love Jones*) &

Rhodel Castillo (whose life *oughta* be a movie). Reception follows. 2pm, free. 1605 N Troy. Info (312) 744-2244.

The Literary Exchange Annual Black Herstory Month Celebration, featuring The Women of A Real Read in "...Nothing But A She thang," plus local performers & special award presentations. 7:30pm, \$5 donation. At Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children, 1650 W Foster. (773) 509-6881.

Star Plaza The Temptations & The Four Tops. (312) 559-1212.

Trinity United Church of Christ concludes several months' armistead events with a freedom music concert. Info (312) 427-4830.

Sunday, Feb. 8

Club inta presents Boys Night Out—come one, come all! Music by Chicago House DJ Drell Tyler, lavish buffet, private rooms available to rent, drink specials, valet pkg. Sundays. 308 W Erie. Info (312) 664-6595.

Symphony Center presents acclaimed musician Wynton Marsalis conducting the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, (312) 294-3000.

Trinity United Church of Christ Interfaith Panel on Issues of Race, Culture, Justice and Freedom. Info (312) 427-4830.

WACT (Womyn of All Colors/Cultures Together) Brunch #60 gets womyn together! Details/directions/info (773) 784-8922.

Monday, Feb. 9

Chicago Cultural Center "Margaret Burroughs: A Great Educator" slide lecture by founder of the DuSable Museum, 12:15pm, Cassidy Theater. (312) 744-1430.

Tuesday, Feb. 10

Art Institute of Chicago ExpressTalk lecture, "Study for The Jungle by Wilfredo Lam," 5:30pm, 111 S Michigan. (312) 443-3600.

Chicago Cultural Center "Divas of Dance: Muntu Dance Theater of Chicago" performs in tribute to YeYe, 12:15pm, Cassidy Theater. ALSO "What's Love Got to Do With It" film starring Angela Bassett as Tina Turner features numerous Turner hits, 5-7pm, Cassidy Theater. Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington. Info (312) 744-1430.

DuSable Museum actors of CityLit Theater present "Stories from Black Traditions," three works adapted from traditional Black folk tales. 10a, (773) 947-0600.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

DuSable Museum of African American History celebrates "Imani and the Magic Drum," a Growing Seeds production, uses lively performance to show meaning of faith & determination. 10am, (773) 947-0600.

Guild Complex 6th Annual Musicality of Poetry Festival: today featuring "Pianist Bethany Pickens, Poets Sharon L. Powell and Maria McCray." (773) 278-2210.

Imani Umoja discussion group for gay & bi brothers of color meets 2nd & 4th Wednesdays—feeling & healing the spirit during Black History Month & all year 'round! At Sinai Family Health Centers, Grand Blvd. Plaza, 5401 S Wentworth, Preston Shumaker, workshop (773) 907-8993.

Thursday, Feb. 12

Affinity black lesbian/bi women's discussion group meets 7-8:30pm. (312) 409-7609.

National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum 11th Annual Conference, Feb. 12-15, in Washington, D.C. (202) 483-6786.

Trowbridge Guitar Studio Structured Afro-Cuban drum jam led by percussionist Lisa Ziemann welcomes beginners to advanced drummers. (773) 334-3214.

Women & Children First Danzy Senna, "Caucasia" tells the story of Birdie & Cole, daughters of a black father & white mother, intellectuals & activists in the Civil Rts. Movement in 1970s Boston. The sisters are close, but one appears black, the other white. 7:30p. (773) 769-6729.

Friday, Feb. 13

Bringing Our Hearts Together XI, 1998 Hearts Party Weekend, Feb. 13-15. Benefit for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Lesbian Community Cancer Project, Open Hand Chicago, and Test Positive Aware. (773) 404-3784. ALSO enjoy "Sacred Heart" 10p-4a, featuring DJ Boston's Joe D'Espinoza at Convent tonight, 1629 W. Elston. Sat. "The Heart's Party" w/ DJ Mark Pichotti, 10p-7a at the Uptown Theater, 4816 N Broadway. Sun., Breakfast with BUC 7a-3p at Vinyl, 1615 N Clybourn; "And the Beat Goes On" with DJ Susan Morabito at 1543 N Kingsbury 3p-10p (regular Glee Club follows!) Info (888) 473-4327

Chicago Cultural Center "Reconstruction" concert: Bradley Parker-Sparrow premieres his solo piano sonata. 12:15pm, free. Cassidy Theater, CCC, (312) 744-6630.

Chicago Public Library hosts the African American Book Bazaar and Marketplace, featuring Af-Am authors, publishers & vendors. Thru Feb 15, during library hrs. In the Winter Garden, 9th fl. Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S State St. (312) 747-4875.

DePaul University presents annual "Jazz is for Lovers" concert. Jazz trumpeter/vocalist Byron Stripling performs with the DePaul Jazz Ensemble. 8pm, \$15-20 (sr/students/other discounts). Merle Reskin Theatre, 60 E Balbo Dr. Info (312) 922-1999. (Stripling also offers a free public jazz clinic Fri, 2/13, 6-7pm at DPU School of Music, 804 Belden.)

Guild Complex "The Last Poets with Reggie Gibson, and Innervations, featuring Avery R Young and Smoke." Cross-cultural multi-media fest runs Wednesdays thru February. 8pm, tonight \$15 (\$12 members; 10% off student/sr.) At Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E Chicago. Tix (312) 397-4010.

School of the Art Institute Video series "Fierce Cravings: Deconstructing Black Sexuality in film & Video" offers 6pm Friday screenings followed by lecture, and 12pm Sat. lecture followed by screenings, of works by early & contemp film/video artists: tonight & Sat., (312) 563-5162.

Saturday, Feb. 14

Art Institute of Chicago "Baule: African Art/Western Eyes," by art historian Bob Sopelssa, 11am, Gallery 150. ALSO "Eye Plus One, West African-Inspired Percussion" performances 1:30 and 2:30pm in Fullerton Auditorium. Info (312) 443-3600.

Chicago Public Library hosts Survival and Strategies Forum, featuring various educators, attorneys & advocates. "Welfare to Work: The End of Welfare as We Know It." 9a; "Affirmative Action: Can It Survive?" 11a; "Just Us: The Criminal Justice System & African Americans," 1p; Lower Level. Harold Washington Library (312) 747-4875.

Sunday, Feb. 15

Chicago 35 meets; speaker Lorraine Baskerville, BSU, from Transgenesis, addresses transgender issues. 3:30pm/ At Ann Sather's/Belmont. (773) 381-3853.

Governors State Center/Performing Arts Double Exposure, husband & wife duo of internationally known Black pianist/composer Eleanor Alberga & U.K. virtuoso violinist Thos. Bowes, (708) 235-2222.

Monday, Feb. 16

Columbia 2 & Guild Complex Writing Collaborative comprises a unique series of jointly developed/sponsored workshops & classes for Spring 1998, (312) 344-7259.

Columbia College Chicago African Body Arts: Visual Biographies features objects from sub-Saharan Africa, (312) 344-7104.

Tuesday, Feb. 17

Art Institute of Chicago celebrates African American Heritage Month with various special programs, including today's lecture "Europe Looks At Africa." 12:15pm in Gallery 201; also Sat, Feb 28, 11am, (312) 443-3600.

Chicago Cultural Center "A Woman of the Theater: Val Gray Ward" lecture/readings presentation by founder of Kumba Theater, Chicago's 1st Af-Am theater company, 78 E Washington. Info (312) 744-1430.

Chicago Public Library presents "The Million Woman March: Where Do We Go From Here?" (312) 747-4875.

DuSable Museum of African American History "Freedom Fighters" performance portrays significant individuals whose courage & determination during the Amistad incident era made substantial differences in American history. (773) 947-0600.

Women & Children First Darlene Clark Hine and Kathleen Thompson discussing their new work, *A Shining Thread of Hope: A History of Black Women in America*. Hine is a history professor at Michigan State; Thompson, a well-published Chicago writer. 7:15pm. 5233 N Clark. Info (773) 769-6729.

Wed., Feb. 18

Berlin Women's Obsession Night.

Chicago Cultural Center "Lift Every Voice: A Tribute to Lena McLin" (312) 744-1430.

DuSable Museum of African American History Kuntu Drama presents Anansi, an adaptation of a classic West African folktale incorporating storytelling, poetry & music. (773) 947-0600.

Guild Complex "...Through Word and Sound-CD Listening Party." Poets Mario, Tina Howell, Von, Sherrille Lamb, Tyehimba Jess; guest musicians CoolOut Chris, Virus X, Bethany Pickens. (773) 278-2210.

Thursday, Feb. 19

Chicago Public Library Harold Lucas of the Black Metropolis Convention & Tourism Council speaks on "Tourism in Black Metropolis: Restoring Bronzeville." 12:15pm, Video Theater, Lower Level, Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S State St. Info (312) 747-4875.

DuSable Museum of African American History Shirley King & the Blues Boys perform, 10am, \$3.50. 740 E. 56th Pl. Info (773) 947-0600.

Friday, Feb. 20

1998 Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgendered College Conference, hosted by The University of Illinois at Chicago Feb. 20-22, 1998. (312) 413-8619

Prairie State College 10th Annual Jazz Festival (708) 709-3742.

School of the Art Institute "Fierce Cravings: Deconstructing Black Sexuality in film & Video" (312) 443-3703.

Saturday, Feb. 21

Affinity black lesbian/bi 40+ women's discussion group meets 4-6pm. Info, location, topic (773) 667-7606.

Amigas Latinas y Asociacion Alternativa De Lesbianas en Accion Social present Noche Lesbica ("Lesbian Night") an evening of Latina lesbica/bisexual/trans artistic expression. 1632 N Milwaukee. (773) 588-6851 or (708) 366-4237.

DuSable Museum of African American History "Night of 100 Stars" black-tie Benefit Gala at 7pm, (773) 947-0600.

Sunday, Feb. 22

Club inta presents Boys Night Out—come one,

come all! Music by Chicago House DJ Drell Tyler, lavish buffet, private rooms available to rent, drink specials, valet pkg. Sundays. 308 W Erie. Info (312) 664-6595.

DuSable Museum of African American History "Spiritual Songfest" concert featuring national & local choirs & a special celebrity guest will mark the 5th anniversary of the Harold Washington Wing dedication. (773) 947-0600.

Governors State University Center for Performing Arts presents the internationally renowned South African vocal ensemble, Ladysmith Black Mambazo performing isicathamiya—traditional black workers' songs. LBM performed with Paul Simon on the *Graceland* album. 5pm, \$28. GSU Center, Governors Highway & Stuenkel Rd (off I-57 @ Sauk Trail), University Park, Ill. (708) 235-2222.

Old Town School of Folk Music African Drum Circle with Yaya Kabo, one of the true masters of West African/Senegalese drumming, especially the djembe. Bring your own drum if possible; limited number of instruments will be supplied. 6-8pm, \$12 (\$10 members). 909 W Armitage. (773) 525-7793.

Tuesday, Feb. 24

Chicago Cultural Center "The Color Purple" film starring Whoopi Goldberg & Oprah Winfrey (in their screen debuts) in superb treatment of Alice Walker's acclaimed novel, dir Steven Spielberg (1985), 5-7:35pm, Cassidy Theater, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington. (312) 744-1430.

Chicago Public Library hosts Steppers Dance Class with instructor Leana Richard, who appeared on Herb Kent's TV show, *Steppin' at Club 7*. 5:30pm, Multi-Purpose Rm, Lower Level. Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S State St. Info (312) 747-4875.

DuSable Museum of African American History "Mythical Adventures of the Orisa" shares the fabulous beings' great & humorous adventures as told to Nigerian children for years. 10am, \$3.50. 740 E. 56th Pl. Info

Opening Nights

Feb 8: We Heard the Night Outside For Black History Month, a Real Read presents Larry Duckette's intriguing and imaginative investigation into the love he shared with African-American poet Essex Hemphill. Thru Feb. 15. Bailiwick. (773) 883-1090.

Feb 24: Dead of Night: The Execution of Fred Hampton based on controversial 1969 police raid resulting in the death of Black Panther leader Hampton. For Black History Month. Thru Apr 5 Pegasus Players, (773) 878-9761.

Feb 24: Black Caesar by Chicagoan David Barr, winner of the Theodore Ward Prize for African-American Playwrighting Contest sponsored by Columbia College Chicago. Getz Theater, thru Mar 8. (312) 344-6126.

In Performance

RENT Best Musical 1996 Tony Award, 1996 Pulitzer Prize. Young people on the edge face AIDS, other obstacles in life. Shubert, Thru Mar 8. (312) 902-1500.

DANCE

Jan 30, 31: Next Dance Festival Frank Fishella, *Landscape of Desire III* and *Cupid, deflowered*; Paula Frasz, *Brutale Kraft* and *Freeze Frame+Theme+Variation on a Jig*; Carrie Hanson, *Castle* with a fantastical set; Winifred Haun and Dancers, *Bound*, Washington Library (773) 278-6453.

Jan 30, 31: Ruth Page Dance Series Chicago companies in ballet, modern, jazz, tap, ethnic, *Especially Tap*, *Moose Project*, *Same Planet Different World*, *Tango 21*. Series continues Feb 20, 21 and Mar 27, 28. NIU Auditorium (773) 794-6138

Feb 9: Divas of Dance: The Chicago Multi-Cultural Dance Center Dance

(773) 947-0600.

Women & Children First Women's Book Discussion group reads Sapphire's *Push*, a novel about an abused 16-year-old pregnant with 2nd kid by her father—whose life is changed by her writing teacher. 7:15pm. 5233 N Clark. Info (773) 769-6729.

Wednesday, Feb. 25

Guild Complex 6th Annual Musicality of Poetry Festival: "Fight the Power—Rap, Race, and Reality," featuring Chuck D Professor, Professor Griff, Scoop Jackson; Afterset: *Tree Roots and the Traveling Caravan*. "Cross-cultural multi-media fest runs Wednesdays thru February. 7:30pm, tonight \$15 (\$7 student); advance tix \$10/\$5 until Feb 18 at Chopin Cafe). At Chopin Theater, 1543 W Division. Info Michael Warr (773) 278-2210.

Imani Umoja discussion group for gay & bi brothers of color meets 2nd & 4th Wednesdays—feeling & healing the spirit during Black History Month & all year 'round! At Sinal Family Health Centers, Grand Blvd. Plaza, 5401 S Wentworth. Preston Shumaker, coordinator (773) 907-8993.

Friday, Feb. 27

Gerber/Hart Library & DuSable Museum celebrate African-American History Month with a reception sponsored by the Gerber/Hart African-American and Black Archives & Collection, held at the DuSable Museum. Archival curator Kathleen Rose Winter hosts the community event: 6:30-9:30pm at DuSable Museum, 740 E 56th Place (in Washington Plk.). Please RSVP to Gerber/Hart Library, (773) 883-3003.

Saturday, Feb. 28

Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues (ACGLI) presents "The Gender Spectrum: Expanding the Rainbow," a public education forum on transgender issues. 12-3pm. At Lower Level, Harold Washington Library, 400 S State. RSVP (312) 744-7911.

See NIGHTLINES for more calendar events. Calendar deadline is the 10th of month.

ARTS & THEATRE

Performance by The Junior Company, honoring Black women in dance, 5:30 Chicago Cultural Center, Dial F-I-N-E A-R-T.

Feb 10: Divas of Dance: Muntu Dance Theater of Chicago dance performance pays tribute to YeYe (an African title attributed to select women whose vision, impact and life-time devotion to their work marks them as leaders) of dance. Cassidy Th, Chicago Cultural Center Dial F-I-N-E A-R-T.

Feb 19: David Rousseau/Reality Work in progress: *Love, Songs*, part of the encore series thru Feb 21, Dance Center, 4730 N. Sheridan Rd. (773) 989-3310.

Feb 23: Divas of Dance: Bobby Andrews and the Katherine Dunham Ensemble, Chicago dancer, choreographer and teacher Andrews with the Dunham Ensemble in tribute to living dance legend Katherine Dunham. Cassidy Th, Cultural Center F-I-N A-R-T.

Feb 24: Divas of Dance: Majwa Dance Corps performers dances from 20s, 30s, 40 eras, a living historical dance archive presenting traditional dances from Africa, the Caribbean and the United States. Cassidy Th, Chicago Cultural Center Dial F-I-N A-R-T.

ART/PHOTO

Art Institute of Chicago Baule: African Art/Western Eyes, wood sculpture, ivory, bronze, gold from Baule, Feb 14-May 10. (312) 443-3600.

Beacon Street Gallery African Cultural Expressions, a retrospective of photographer Bob Richards (773) 769-4284.

The DuSable Museum Ernie Banks, photo and memorabilia retrospective honoring his distinguished career in baseball opening Feb 4. *Amistad* thru June 30. (312) 947-0600.

Woman Made Gallery Signs and Symbols, multi-cultural look symbols as communication, their visual impact, (312) 328-0038

HOWARD BROWN HEALTH CENTER



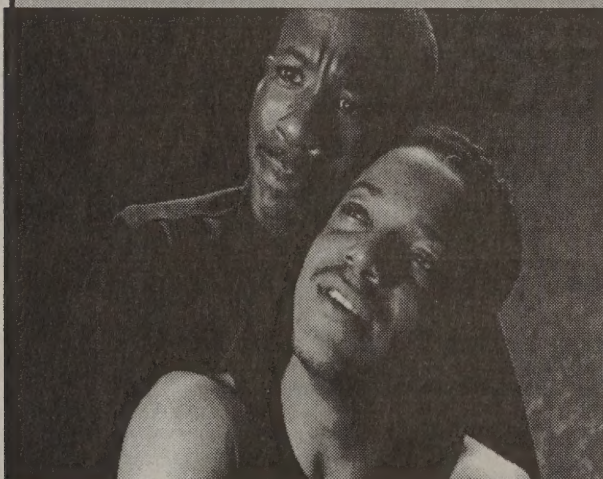
*Larry Duckette's haunting
and beautiful portrayal of
his love for the poet Essex
Hemphill is a romantic and
stirring love story for our
times.*

P R E S E N T S

A REAL READ In Bailiwick's

We Heard the Night Outside

*By Larry Duckette
Directed by David Zak*



*Featuring
Byron Stewart,
Sanford Gaylord,
and C. C. Carter*

Feb 7 at 5:30, Feb 8, 13, 14, and 15 at 8:00 \$15.

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Dancing it Out: David Rousseve

by Gregg Shapiro

A few hours before I was scheduled to interview choreographer and dancer David Rousseve, another dancer/choreographer was being interviewed on *The Today Show*. Tommy Tune, the towering Texan, was promoting his new CD and autobiography, and appeared to make Virginia-native Katie Couric uncomfortable. Was it his size? He is six and half feet tall, after all. No, I got the sense that Ms. Couric was uncomfortable with the subject of Tune's recently revealed homosexuality. Here's some advice Katie, if you're going to be interviewing a choreographer, the chances are pretty good that he is gay.

I mention this because, as I found out in speaking to him, that David Rousseve is also from Texas. However, the 38-year-old choreographer, who now calls Los Angeles home, where he lives with his partner, and teaches at UCLA, considers himself to be bi-coastal.

Rousseve's current project, "Love Songs," is being developed in Chicago, New York and Seattle, and will have work-in-progress showings, as well as its full world premiere Feb. 19-21 at the Dance Center of Columbia College (which is one of five commissioning partners) in Chicago. I spoke with shortly before his arrival in Chicago.

Gregg Shapiro: Please tell me a little bit about your education and experience, and what it was that made you want to become a dancer and choreographer.

David Rousseve: I started off, originally, in theater, as an actor, as a child. Doing a lot of television and live theater in Houston. I started dancing in high school, because I thought I wanted to do musical theater, to make the transition into doing musical comedy. Then I went to Princeton, in 1977, and I graduated in 1981. While I was there, I started studying more serious theater, and modern dance and

ballet. I majored politics, theater, dance, and African studies (laughs). I was actually pre-law then, with an eye towards theater, because I didn't know which one I really wanted to do. Once I graduated from college, I started dancing with a lot of different people, doing their work. Then, in 1985, I started wanting to do my own choreography. Since my work is all about communicating, I wanted to communicate on the issues and the way that I feel is most personal to me. So, out of a sense of frustration from working with other people, I decided to pursue my own thing.

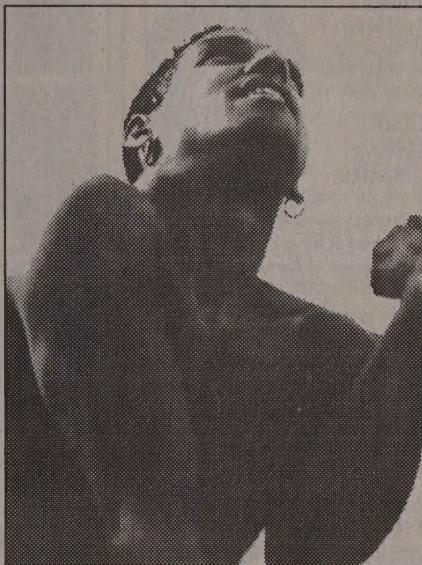
GS: Who are major influences on your work?

DR: Really, not that many dance people. Because what I do is such a particular blend of dance and theater. I'd say, probably, the German choreographer Pina Bausch, whom I adore. I really adore Toni Morrison, in terms of what she's about and what she's trying to say. Most of my influences haven't been dance people. I really idolize Bausch and Morrison.

GS: On the videotape (of your work) that I saw, one of the things that struck me was your music selection. One song was a Marvin Gaye/Tami Terrell duet, another one was by Public Enemy. What can you tell me about the process of choosing music for a dance piece? Does the music or the movement come first?

DR: For me, it's actually the text that comes first, because I actually make "dance theater." What happens is, I'll have a text in mind, or a scene that is derived from the text, from a

story. The work is usually very text-driven. I'll get an idea for a scene, and the text comes, and then the movement comes next,



David Rousseve

which is derived from the subtext of the scene. If it's a scene about compassion or anger or love or whatever, then I'll come up with the music. (Music) is actually, for me, one of the last elements. It's usually something that's meant to illuminate one of the thematic parts of the scene, rather than illuminate the movement, per se.

GS: Since we're talking about text-driven dance, in 1990, when I saw David Dorfman Dance perform, I was fascinated by the use of spoken word in a couple of the pieces. It was as if the dancers had to be dancers AND actors, too. What can you tell me about the incorporation of spoken word in dance by yourself and other choreographers?

DR: I guess that it means that the work is really all about communicating and words. Sometimes I feel I can communicate most articulately through pure words, just prose without any movement behind it. Other times, I feel like the most powerful way of communicating, in a particular scene, is through

abstract movement, in which case I'll leave the text out. But often, I feel like the most potent brew for me is a hybrid of words and movement. What determines whether or not I'll use text, and how I'll use it, is if it seems to be the most important way of communicating a certain idea. I've had pieces that have been pure movement and some that have been more text driven, although the work does tend to be text driven. I kind of see it as another avenue for communication. If the whole thing is kind of like a big soup, then I want to have it taste a certain way. The ingredients are visual imagery and movement and words. It just depends on the particular flavor that I want, as to how many words (I use) and they get combined with the movement.

GS: Please tell me about your current work "Love Songs," which is set to Puccini arias.

DR: "Love Songs" is actually Puccini and Wagner. All the music is soprano arias. It's kind of a dialogue on love, that is a juxtaposition of a lot of different elements that don't seem to belong together. There's a lot of text. The primary, fictional story, set in the 1800s, is about two African slaves, who have an undying love for each other, which gets really complicated in the narrative. There are also some snippets of very contemporary love stories and some very off-the-wall characters. It's a conglomeration of literary love stories and narratives combined with the arias, most of which are quite romantic. Then that combines with a lot of visual imagery and movement. The set and the movement are both elaborate. What happens is that (there are) these different elements that don't seem to belong together, but are combined on this romantic level ... there's also a lot of grit in the piece, but there's a lot of romantic notions of love ... and then they combine to make this potent brew. It's meant to be a discourse on compassion and love.

Call (773) 989-3310 for the Feb. 19-21 Dance Center shows.

Women & Children First Books

Thursday, Feb. 12 7:30 p.m.

Danzy Senna: *Caucasia*

Birdie and Cole are the daughters of a black father and a white mother, intellectuals and activists in the Civil Rights Movement in 1970s Boston. The sisters are so close that they have created a private language, yet to the outside world they can't be sisters: Birdie appears to be white, while Cole is dark enough to fit in with the other kids at the Afrocentric school they attend. For Birdie, Cole is the mirror in which she can see her own blackness. When their parents' marriage breaks up, the girls are separated, too.

Tues., Feb. 17 7:15 p.m.: Darlene Clark Hine and Kathleen Thompson: *A Shining Thread of Hope: A History of Black Women in America*

They will discuss their comprehensive and fascinating history of American Black women. Darlene is an editor of the encyclopedia *Black Women in America*, Kathleen, a Chicagoan, is a contributor to *Black Women in America* as well as the just-published *Jewish Women in America*.

Friday, Feb. 20 7:30 p.m.: Nancy Manahan and Jorjet Harper: *On My Honor: Lesbians Reflect on Their Scouting Experience*

Tuesday,

Feb. 24

7:15 p.m.

**Women's Book Discussion:
Push, by Sapphire**



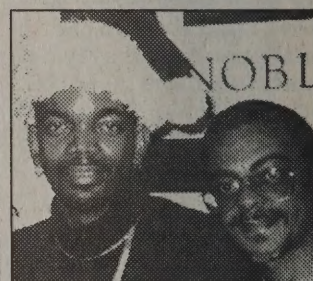
5233 N. Clark • Chicago, 60640 • (773) 769-9299
Wheelchair Accessible • Parking in Rear
M-T 11-7; W-Th F 11-9; Sat. 10-7; Sun. 11-6



Danzy Senna



Darlene C. Hine



HOT PICS

TOP, from left: Camey, Ms. Eula, Ms. Ginger, Big "G" at

Club Escape's New Year's Eve party. Photo by Jean Bales. **BELOW, LEFT:** Betty and Tamera were among the more than 1,200 women and men at the Lesbian Community Cancer Project *Coming Out Against Cancer* gala at South Shore Cultural Center. See **NIGHTLINES** for LOTS more pics. Photo by Jean Bales. **RIGHT:** Bobbie and Derrick at Greater Chicago's Committee's Toys for Tots holiday benefit at Derrick's.

THE DANCE CENTER

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

TAKING CHANCES, BREAKING RULES... AGAIN

David Rousseve / REALITY

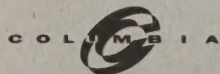
IN A SPECIAL PREVIEW
OF LOVE SONGS

Feb. 19 @ 8 pm Tickets \$16

Feb. 20 & 21 @ 8 pm Tickets \$18

The Dance Center
4730 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago

Fall in love with David
Rousseve's dance/theater
piece *Love Songs* — a
blending of real love stories,
Puccini's arias and flawless
athletic dancing.

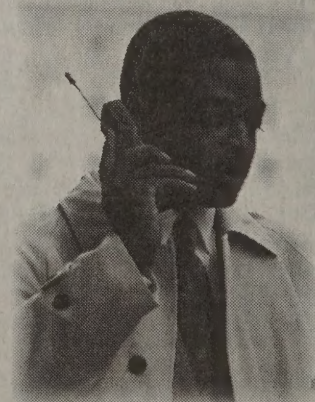


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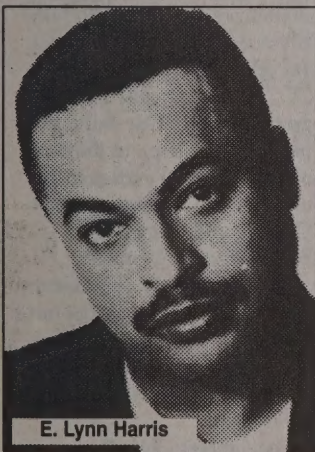
H.E.L.P.

Work of E. Lynn Harris, Angelou Threatened in Censorship Cases, Harris Nominated for NAACP Award

The Central High School council, in Louisville, KY, voted 4 to 2 to let students read the novels by Black gay author E. Lynn Harris, but only if they get written permission from their parents, reports THE LOUISVILLE COURIER-JOURNAL.

Meanwhile, Harris is one of five finalists for the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored people) Image Awards in fiction/poetry, to be announced Feb. 14 in California. Harris is currently living in Chicago and working on his next novel.

The Louisville debate has



E. Lynn Harris

raged for several weeks, peaking during a three-hour meeting in early January. Students defended the books and attacked the conservative protesters for trying to tell them and their parents what they should be reading. About 70 of the 300 people at the meeting spoke, and most protested the books. The two council "no" votes were from parents, while three teachers and principal Harold Fenderson voted in favor of the books (which are not required reading; they belong to a teacher's collection and she allows students to check them out). The issue may come up for a voter referendum.

David Williams, editor of THE

LETTER, Kentucky's GLBT newspaper, writes:

"There are also three hidden issues here. 1. Racism. Central High School until the 1970s was predominantly African-American and remains the pride of Louisville's African-American community. For years Central High School tried to get an asphalt track installed, only to be rebuffed; but when busing was instituted in 1975 and white students started being bused into the school, Central got its track. There is still much resentment over this issue in the African-American community. Much of that resentment is aimed at evangelical Christians, who opposed busing fervently.

"2. Religion. Most of the opponents apparently came from Louisville's suburbs, particularly the south and southeast areas. Some speakers complained about them being 'bussed in.' They were overwhelmingly white and evangelical Christians: descendants of the same Christians who opposed busing in the 1970s and integration in the '50s.

"3. Economic. Most of the opponents were perceived to come from the 'East End' (the wealthiest section of the community), whereas Central High School sits across the street from a housing project and many of its students come from the West End of Louisville, which is economically depressed."

Angelou also censored

Maya Angelou's National Book Award-winning autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, has been removed from ninth-grade reading lists in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, reports NewsPlanet.

Angelou's work was cut from ninth grade reading lists by Anne Arundel County school Superintendent Carol Parham; it is still available for optional reading and will continue to be part of the eleventh grade curriculum, NewsPlanet reported, adding, "A group of 14 parents were disturbed by the level of detail in descriptions of rape, abuse, teen pregnancy, and les-

Angela Davis is Officially Out

The February OUT magazine cover story is on 1970s revolutionary Angela Davis, who confirms long-time rumors that she's a lesbian. When she spoke at the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum conference in 1993, she did use the first-person in discussing the lesbian community, but because she wants to maintain some remnants of her private life, she has been

vague about her own lesbianism. Well, she's not vague anymore, laying it on the line about being a lesbian, the commercializing of her revolutionary life, and much more. Quotes include:

▼ Her lesbianism is "something I'm fine with as a political statement. But I still want a private space for carrying out my relationships."

▼ Davis credits younger activists for other insights: how issues like sexuality can "enter into consciousness and become the focus of struggle," such as domestic violence and AIDS.

▼ In researching her new book, *Blues Legacies and Black Feminism*, she began to understand how "personal" life historically played a role in Black women's liberation. The blues women who sang about homosexual desire, abusive men, jealousy, lust, travel, and love were creating, she says, "a working-class Black feminism" and "a politics of resistance challenging race and gender identity."

bian concerns—elements teachers saw as minor in the context of the whole book. Some parents were also displeased with Angelou's portrayal of white people. The local chapter of the (NAACP) believes there is a racial motivation in denying students the chance to read about growing up within an African-American culture. ... [T]he American Library Association found that *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* was the nation's book most often challenged in schools in the 1995-1996 academic year."

Meanwhile, Rhino WordBeat releases *Black Pearls: The Poetry of Maya Angelou*, the only CD release available of Dr. Maya Angelou reciting her poetry, March 17. This collection includes 33 inspiring poems offset by 5 jazz interludes written and composed by Ed Bland. It's a collection of readings that were originally heard on the 1969 album *The Poetry Of Maya Angelou*, now long out of print.



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In 1993 Dr. Angelou drew national attention when she became the first poet in a generation to speak at a Presidential inauguration; she also delivered an address at the 1995 Million Man March.

NOTES ...

OutWrite '98, a conference of queer writers and writing, will be Feb. 20-22 in Boston. Call (617) 262-6969, fax (617) 267-0852, outwrite@terranet.com. Speakers include Pratibha Parmar, Craig Lucas, Jewelle Gomez, Sarah Schulman, Jacqueline Woodson, Lesléa Newman, Urvashi Vaid, Carmen Vazquez, Thomas Glave, Mariana Romo-Carmona, and Kenny Fries.

Bailiwick Repertory seeks men from 18 to 80, all races and types, for Pride Series 1998. Send Resume by Feb. 10 to Bailiwick PRIDE Series, 1229 W Belmont, Chicago, IL 60657. Audition dates mid-April, performances from April-August.

Amistad Opera at Lyric

by Robert Schultz

The opera *Amistad* is an ingenious testament to the ongoing dynamic interaction between African and European traditions that is the essence of American culture. The *Amistad* story, one that ought to grow in significance to all Americans, is imbued with a Black approach to the whole affair. One African character sings upon hearing the court's decision granting them freedom, "Is a paper all you believe? Were we not already free?"

The world premier performances of *Amistad* were recently completed at the Lyric Opera. The opera, a collaboration between composer Anthony Davis and his cousin, librettist Thalan Davis, represents a successful fusion of African storytelling with the European operatic form.

In the opera, the historical *Amistad* event becomes a mythic tale of Cinque, the freedom fighter, and his encounter with the Trickster God, an African deity, better known as the Lord Riddler. *Amistad* successfully explores the larger forces in our lives such as chance, racism, and humanity's inherent quest for freedom. Certainly the *Amistad* deserves to be produced again—and again.

The direction of openly gay stage director George C. Wolfe

(*Bring in Da Noise/Bring in Da Funk*) acts as a bridge of accessibility in making the textured and multilayered work breathe. The opening act's second scene, "Savages of Legend" uses a sextet of reporters who argue their competing 19th century views about Blacks. The lyrics reflect the commonplace racist language in use during the 1830s and that language is juxtaposed against tension relieving puppetry to demonstrate the absurdity of the most offensive views of Blacks.

The music of the opera was decidedly modern and its kinetic styles reflected the tensions the African captives must have felt throughout the whole ordeal. Davis' innovation was to use the pit orchestra like a jazz band in the way the score plays against the vocalist. Best remembered will be the able performance of tenor Thomas Young who played the Trickster. The Trickster's occasional scattering represented the hubris of the god who decides to make America his home as the opera ends.

LETTERS

Tuskegee help

I am a student attending Tuskegee University where I am currently the only member of a lesbian organization. I do not have the support or the financial resources of the university as of now. I am in need of support from alumni from Tuskegee or others so that I can make Tuskegee University a less hostile environment for its lesbian students.

Thank you, Felicia T. Baker
The Lesbianstraight Alliance, c/o Felicia T. Baker,
Tuskegee University, Box 5886,
Tuskegee Institute, AL 36088.

GCC in 1997

Looking back on 1997, I cannot help but smile when I think

about the many great things that happened this year with the Greater Chicago Committee. My thanks go out to the lesbian-gay-trans community and to all the support from people of good will everywhere.

GCC has seen one of its most active years yet which is obviously the result of dedication from members, board, and supporters. First, there is the Black Kettle, our quarterly newsletter which, now in its fourth year of publication, still remains a source of information and frank discussions about issues other publications won't touch. We first raised the matter of racial injustice within AIDS WALK (which still remains unresolved) but as a result of our blowing the whistle, other groups and organizations have begun to question the practices of The Walk.

GCC also saw the formal completion of the creation of the Queer Youth Fund. This was the goal of the Rainbow Jam in 1996. Although it took us into 1997 to complete the steps to make the fund possible it was done and done correctly. Now there exists a fund to support the development of queer youth leadership in Chicago. We are glad to have been a part of an important effort which began with our dream of doing something as dynamic as the Rainbow Jam turned out to be.

1997 also produced our best Bayard Rustin Awards Ceremonies to date. We took this annual event to the DuSable Museum for the first time and filled the house as we introduced the first award for Transgender activism. We call it the Georgia Black award.

The Bayard Rustin Awards still remain the only community focused awards program involving the participation of the African American lesbian-gay-trans community from start to finish.

I don't want you to forget the annual Pride weekend kick off, better known as the Black Black Party. This event keeps growing and growing. If you missed it in 1997, don't be left out in 1998!

GCC reached out again, as we always try to do, and invited Black lesbian-gay-trans groups from all around town to join us on a unity float in this year's parade. The Unity Float received an award for best organization float in 1997. A total of ten organizations participated and this was a great first for all of us. Most significant of all our achievements in this year was our move to bring an important new approach to the fight against HIV/AIDS in communities of color. GCC introduced the Rubber Brothers and Sisters Advocating Safer Sex (SASS) as new prevention initiatives.

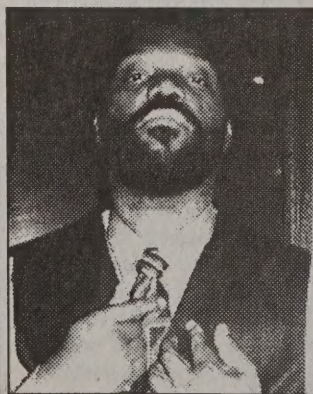
What makes these projects unique is that they are designed to enhance already existing HIV programs. GCC works with other agencies to help meet the challenges of outreach to sexually active men and women. I am proud to announce that GCC is the recipient of two grants so far to help build this program and expand the outreach capacity. Funders in 1997 included AIDS Foundation of Chicago and Chicago Foundation for Women.

GCC is the only organization of its type in Chicago that has a Federal non-profit status and has been honored two years in a row by President Bill Clinton for its work.

The Greater Chicago Committee has been responsible for initiating a lot of new activities and raising the consciousness of the African American lesbian-gay-trans people for four years and we owe our achievement to your support.

So much of what GCC has done will probably never be credited to GCC. Others may want to take the bows and claim the glory. Our intent has always been to do what we had to in order to make positive things happen in Chicago. We will continue to do things the same way we have and get our satisfaction from just know that something good is happening.

Sincere thanks to all of you,
Jim Harvey, President
Emeritus, GCC



Flashes ...

Anthony Grant, New Year's Eve, Club Escape.

Photo by Jean Bales.

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flow ~ notes from the BLACKLINES Music Department

welcome to flow ...

... the new BLACKLINES music department. This has been a dream of ours for a very long time. From the moment I first read one of J's reviews, I knew I had to work with him. His passion and knowledge shines through his writing. He is a connoisseur of imports and can find the "jam" in a stack of rejects. Harry Tyner is a "club kid." he is well versed in House music, Techno, Drum 'n' Base, general club music and their producers. He also knows about hot, local DJs.

Music, for me, is where I've truly learned history. It is our history, written by the common person, celebrated by the common person. Its notes tell the truth of our people.

Flow has a lot of passion and a lot of big ideas. Please, come grow with us.

—Jano

Musical Memories

Songs In The Key Of Life Stevie Wonder

"This album was given to me by my Grandma for Christmas. At the time it was trendy to have songs merge into each other. But the songs on this album took me from emotional highs to emotional lows. This was the first album where I felt like someone was trying to tell me something."

Starlight Cheryl Lynn

"My cousin and I were fascinated by the disco dancing of the time. I remember Starlight has a slow introduction before becoming high energy. We would choreograph dance routines like the ones we saw on Dance Fever."

A House Is Not A Home Luther Vandross

"This was around the first time I started pursuing love interests. When I heard this song, it made me realize that I wasn't getting what I wanted from people."

**This month's Musical Memories
are from Robert Hodges.**

Up On It

Music reviews by J.

Taja Sevelle — *Toys of Vanity* (550 Music)

From her opening line "I had a dream I lived next door to me," Taja assures that her latest release is not the usual pop shlop.

While you'll be hard pressed to find anyone who has any of her music, Taja Sevelle has been recording since 1987, if only for her own enjoyment. In the case of her well-produced *Toys of Vanity*, Sevelle assumes this position literally, exploring the complexities of me, myself and I.

Largely cowritten and produced by R. J. Rice, *Toys* is full of buried meanings and divergent arrangements. [A cursory listen to "A Lot Like You" seems like an "opposites attract" love song, but slowly reveals a maturing father/daughter relationship.] And Taja works her alternately chirpy-throaty-whispering-soaring voice into each song, shining on "I & I," "Making Love To The Air," and the three-tiered "Fleet of Angels." Noble production makes every track listenable at the very least. For instance, some fancy bass work by Bud Fiddler transforms the otherwise simple "Why?" ("Why oh why oh why ... because because") into an engaging song.

Also worthy are the drum n bass effort, "I Feel" and "Sub-Conscious Me," featuring The Victory Ministries Choir. Much earthier than her earlier, Prince-inspired/produced work. Pop could use more artists like this.

Lyden David Hall — *Medicine 4 My Pain* (EMI)

If you're not hooked by the middle of "Do I Qualify," the second track on *Medicine*, there's something wrong. This extremely infectious debut from multi-talented Hall masterfully delivers the funky, nu-soul thang everyone is trying (with mild success) to create today.

Early word is that D'Angelo's new material is hot, and it had better be when artists like this are impressively picking up where he left off. And, like D'Angelo, Hall is plenty talented. He wrote all of the songs, performed all of the vocals (excellently) and played most of the instruments.

While there is a strong similarity to D'Angelo (especially on "100 Heart Attacks"), Hall manages to offer variety in "Livin' The Lie," "Medicine 4 My Pain," and old school crafted "There Goes My Sanity" and "Crescent Moon," complete with Al Greenesque vocals. But the standout on *Medicine* is the glistening "Sexy Cinderella," featuring Me'Shell Ndegéocello on bass which beats anything on the R&B airwaves today.

This CD is an import, therefore you will probably have to special order it (try calling Gramophone 773.472.3683 or Dr. Wax 773.493.8696). Expect to pay \$20-\$25, but it's worth every penny.

flow ~ notes from the BLACKLINES Music Department

1997 — A Retrospective

by Harry Tyner

The closing of another year and we have been exposed to more exciting, memorable music. We have seen the success of new artists such as Ann Nesby, Michelle Weeks, Deborah Cox and Sandy B. make remarkable dents in the industry as well as the return of veterans Byron Stingily, Jay Williams, Kim English and Ultra Naté.

DJ/Remixers have giving effortlessly new life to classics while pumping fresh, innovative sounds to our ears, keeping our hearts jumping and our feet dancing to the beat.

1998 has just begun and many projects are in the works as we speak. I have compiled my Top 10 for 1997 and a Top 5 for 1998:

1997 Top 10

1. "Free" - Ultra Naté
2. "Dancin'" - Chicago Connection
3. "Runaway" - Nuyorican Soul feat. India
4. "Can't Get High Without You" - Joey Negro feat. Takka Boom
5. "Fade II Black" - Kings of Tomorrow
6. "Magic" - Kerri Chandler
7. Nightlife EP - Mateo & Matos
8. "Ain't No Need To Hide" - Sandy B.
9. "Supernatural" - Kim English
10. "Lovelee Dae" - Blaze

1998 Top 5

1. "Circles" - Kimara Lovelace
2. "Does It Feel Good To You?" - Takka Boom
3. "It's My Time (It's My Turn)" - Michelle Weeks
4. "Got It All Together" - Lenny Fontana
5. Timeless Classics - Marshall Jefferson

A Taste of Cajual — mixed by Mark Grant (Cajual)

Cajual records has been a staple in Chicago underground, producing hit after hit and building a roster of impeccable artists such as Dajae, Braxton Holmes and of course the man who stared it all, Cajmere.

Chicago's very own DJ/remixer Mark Grant displays this label's diversity of house, funk and jazz vibes in a continuous mix to whet any appetite. Each entree on Mark's menu of solid beats will delight your soul from the funk-infested "psychotic Pimpin'" to a Sunday brunch at "Sunrise." This heavenly serving gets four stars. ****

Also available: *The many shades of Cajual*, mixed by Derrick Carter

— Harry Tyner

Jai — Heaven (RCA)

The British have an affinity for soul music (brilliantly illustrated in 1996 by psychedelic, soul artist Lewis Taylor). This pop debut by Brit artist Jai is infused with reggae, trip hop, soul, jazz and a heavy dose of The Beatles. Not that Jai tries to hide this fact. After all, he does give "respect to Blue Note, Northern Soul & Hip Hop."

The result is a mildly numbing, innocuous collection of love/heart-break songs, a sort of Sweetback meets George Michael vibe. Tracks flow from one to another as Jai layers his clear falsetto over molasses-driven beats, sparse instrumentation and catchy hooks. Of interest is the haunting (but light) trip hop concoction, "You Split Me." Other standouts include "I Need Love," "Let Me In" and the jazz/reggae inspired "Cry Me A River."

You can host an afternoon tea, clean the house or false asleep to this chill-out music. Cute.

— J.

Grammys ... GLAMAs

Upcoming awards shows include the **Gay and Lesbian American Music Awards** and the **Grammy Awards**.

Me'Shell Ndegéocello and Indigo Girls are among the 72 Nominees for the Gay and Lesbian American Music Awards (GLAMAs), with RuPaul getting a special award. The GLAMAs will be March 9 in New York City, hosted by Suzanne Westenhoefer, herself a nominee in the Comedy category.

Call (212) 592-4455 or email GLAMA@nycnet.com

Award nominees include:

FEMALE ARTIST: Ferron for the song "The Chosen," Laura Love for "I Am Wondering," Me'Shell Ndegéocello for "Leviticus: Faggot," Michelle Malone for "The Edge," Toshi Reagon for "Where You Gon Be Standin' "

VIDEO: Extra Fancy for "Sinnerman"; Kinnie Starr for "Ophelia"; Leslie Nuchow for "The Empty"; Me'Shell Ndegéocello for "Leviticus: Faggot"; RuPaul "Foxy Lady"

ALBUM: Catie Curtis for the CD *Soulfully*; K.D. lang for *Drag*; Me'Shell Ndegéocello for *Peace Beyond Passion*; The Indigo Girls for *Shaming of the Sun*; The Murmurs for *Pristine Smut*

Also up for awards in other categories: disappear fear, Luscious Jackson, Mollies Revenge, The Laura Love Band, Dance Club 69, Danny Tenaglia, Erasare, Joi Cardwell, Kevin Aviance.

The Grammys

Nominees for the 40th Grammy Awards were also announced recently. Highlights include:

REMIXER OF THE YEAR: Black gay DJ **Frankie Knuckles**, David Morales, Mousse T., Todd Terry, Armand Van Helden

RECORD OF THE YEAR: "Where Have All The Cowboys Gone?" Paula Cole; "Sunny Came Home," Shawn Colvin; "Everyday Is A Winding Road," Sheryl Crow; "MMMBop," Hanson; "I Believe I Can Fly," R. Kelly

ALBUM OF THE YEAR: *The Day*, Babyface; *This Fire*, Paula Cole; *Time Out Of Mind*, Bob Dylan; *Flaming Pie*, Paul McCartney; *OK Computer*, Radiohead

BEST NEW ARTIST: Fiona Apple, Erykah Badu, Paula Cole, Puff Daddy, Hanson

BEST FEMALE POP VOCAL: Mariah Carey, Paula Cole, Shawn Colvin, Jewel, and Sarah McLachlan are nominated.

BEST MALE POP VOCAL: Elton John, Babyface, Maxwell Track, Seal, Duncan Sheik.

BEST POP COLLABORATION WITH VOCALS: Nominees are Babyface & Stevie Wonder; Tony Bennett (with Billie Holiday); John Lee Hooker With Van Morrison; Barbra Streisand & Bryan Adams; and Barbra Streisand & Celine Dion

BEST DANCE RECORDING: "Da Funk," Daft Punk, "Ooh Aah...Just A Little Bit," Gina G, "To Step Aside," Pet Shop Boys, "Space Jam," Quad City DJ's"; "Carry On," Donna Summer & Giorgio Moroder

BEST FEMALE R&B VOCAL PERFORMANCE: Erykah Badu, Mariah Carey, Whitney Houston, Chaka Khan and Patti LaBelle

BEST MALE R&B VOCAL PERFORMANCE: R. Kelly, Kenny Lattimore, Curtis Mayfield, Usher and Luther Vandross

SPOKEN WORD ALBUM: Charles Kuralt's *Spring: Contact*, Jodie Foster; *Even The Stars Look Lonesome*, Maya Angelou; *Living Faith*, Jimmy Carter; *A Reporter's Life*, Walter Cronkite

NBLGLF Leader Steps Down Keith Boykin: In Transition

by Bob Roehr

"It's time in my life to move on," says Keith Boykin, "When I left my job (in the press office) at the White House, in January 1995, I was committed to doing some writing. I did that for about eight months. I really want to get back to that." Those eight months resulted in *One More River to Cross: Black & Gay in America*, a well-received book now out in paperback.

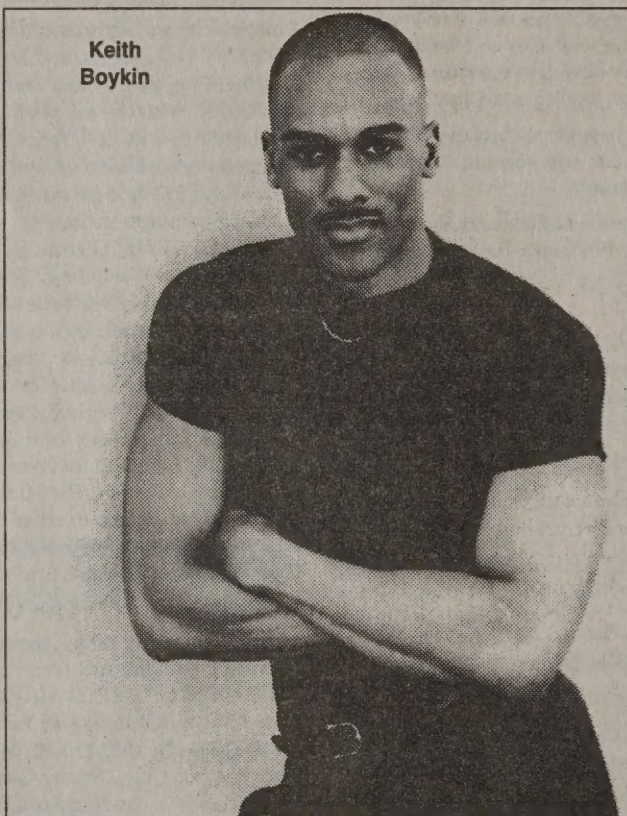
But at the urging of his mentor Phill Wilson, he put aside those personal desires to serve the community as executive director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum.

Over the last two and a half years, Boykin has guided its transition from a Los Angeles-based group which staged a national conference into a full-fledged national organization.

He disappointed many last fall when he decided not to renew his two-year contract. But he did agree to stay on for an orderly transition, through their annual conference in February. Now, with but a few weeks remaining, he is busy with the final details of that meeting.

The Forum, housed on the second floor of a Washington, D.C., warehouse rehabbed into offices, is elegant in a sparse, understated way. The ceilings are high, the light is low on this gray January day, but there is a homey warmth to the exposed brick and above all the gracious ease of Boykin. His voice is a mix of fire and honey, optimism and excitement tempered by experience with just how difficult it can be to make things happen.

Keith
Boykin



The things that Boykin is most proud of during his tenure are perhaps the ones least visible to folks on the outside. It's the stuff of organization building. The board of directors is stronger, more national in character, and the roles of staff and volunteers have been clearly defined. A

decade of red ink has disappeared, "We have been able to raise a significant amount of money for the first time," he beams.

And there is heightened public visibility through participating in the Million Man March, his travel to Zimbabwe as part of the

Boykin sees the churches "who regularly spew out homophobia from the pulpits" as "one of the biggest reasons why people don't come out in the Black community, because they have been condemned, told that they are wrong and immoral." And he laments that "we are not doing anywhere near enough, in this community or any other community, to challenge that."

American delegation, challenging the homophobia of the Winans sisters on BET and in the media. He believes that "over the years we have become less of an after-thought and more of an included part of the Black community."

THE CHALLENGES

But there are frustrations as well, one of which Boykin calls faith.

"Not just spiritual faith but faith in oneself, faith in your community. One of the biggest obstacles has been to try to instill a sense of faith in individuals who have been taught for so long that they had no reason to have faith in themselves and their institutions. Particularly in the African American community."

"Sometimes we have a tendency to first say it is not possible," simply because something has not been done before. "Sometimes I wish I weren't so much of an optimist because I don't always achieve the things I set out to do. But sometimes I also wish I could take my faith and optimism and somehow pass it on to other people so that they can believe in things that we want to do."

Getting people to come out is the greatest challenge, "because whatever we do is dependent upon that. It's fine for people who are not out to make contributions anonymously, but in the end we are really creating a sense of empowerment. It's not just the money but actually a sense of visibility, a presence, a sense of being proud of who we are."

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wrong and immoral." And he laments that "we are not doing anywhere near enough, in this community or any other community, to challenge that."

He is very troubled by HIV and AIDS. The crisis is not over. While mortality rates are declining for every other population group, they are not declining for African Americans. And of the 30 million people estimated to be infected worldwide, two-thirds of those are in sub-Saharan Africa.

"The Black community, including the Black leadership, has completely walked away from this issue. It is almost as if Black people don't realize that Black people are the primary victims of HIV and AIDS, the people who are most likely to die. Not just among gay men but among practically all of the segments of the population."

"And where is Kweisi Mfume on these things? Where is Maxine Waters? Where is Jesse Jackson? Where is the Black leadership on a critical issue for Black people, not only here in America but throughout the diaspora and in Africa as well."

He fears that they see it "as being a Black gay community problem and not for all Black people."

THE FUTURE

Boykin is leaving the Leadership Forum to return to writing and lecturing. He wants "to talk about ideas" unencumbered by having to stop and think about the needs of an organization. He wants to branch out beyond gay and lesbian themes into broader topics. He expects that most of it will be non-fiction but long simmering ideas for a novel may also take shape.

The prospect of working on

another presidential campaign holds little appeal. He agrees with Congressman Barney Frank that it is "far too early" to line up behind any potential candidate. And he feels it is important that each community be in contact with them all to "make sure they are all where they need to be on our issues."

The suggestion that Boykin himself might some day run for office brings a nervous laugh. "I'd like to be involved in public service but I'm not sure at this point that I have the fire in my belly to endure the campaigning process. Or that I want to surrender the little bit of privacy that I do have and make myself essentially a servant of the people."

THE CONFERENCE

The Leadership Forum Conference has grown to more than a thousand participants in recent years. Keith Boykin describes it as "an excellent opportunity for networking, for learning and growth, for spirituality and bonding, and for people to get their engines charged up again for the year."

This is the first time that Leadership Forum members will vote for recipients of recognition awards. Forty-seven men and women have been nominated in seven individual categories and ballots have been mailed out. Awards will be presented at the conference banquet.

The dates of the annual conference are February 12-15 in Washington, D.C. The site is the Crystal City Hyatt, three subway stops across the Potomac in Arlington, VA. Complete information is available on the '98 Conference page at the Forum's web site, www.nblglf.org, or by contacting coordinator Kenyatta Graves at (202) 483-6786.



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TRANSLUCENT TRANSEXUAL

by **Lynnell Stephanie L.**
Spirituality/Sobriety

Part 1

Happy fifth anniversary to me!

If anyone would have told me one day I would be celebrating five years of being sober and drug free, I would have laughed in their face. For years, drugs and alcohol were my reality. It was the ultimate escape from the hell I called life.

It wasn't that life itself was unbearable. It was my life that was unbearable.

My mother was a Minister, and of course when you're the child of a Minister, you go to church whether you want to or not. I sat in church many days trying hard to comprehend the idea of "God and Jesus Christ." I have always had the understanding that there was a "Supreme Being," I just didn't believe it was God as taught in the Bible or Jesus Christ.

I expressed that thought to my mother. After a thorough talking to and a good cursing out, from then on I kept my thoughts to myself. I guess for me to worship and believe in a power greater than myself, that power had to prove itself to me. When my prayers as a child, adolescent and as an adult went unanswered, my suspicions were confirmed, **THERE IS NO GOD!**

My thinking was, if there was a God, why was I born intersexed, sterile and with many other complications? I never expected much from God, except to help me feel comfortable in my body. There were times when I was younger and was teased for looking and acting like a girl. I would pray to God to help me look and act like a boy, just so people wouldn't tease me.

After years of using drugs and alcohol to numb out, in February '93, I signed myself into rehab, and have been abstinent of drugs and alcohol since. I would like to say it was my



doing when I decided to go in to rehab, but it wasn't. After years of not believing in God, I felt I had no one else to turn to, so one night I prayed for the strength to stop using drugs. Later that same night, I found myself on the phone calling hospitals that could help me with my problem.

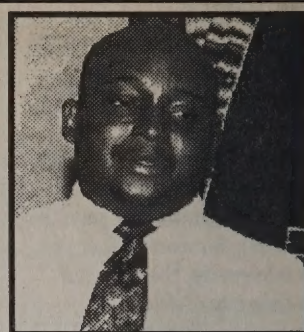
In rehab, I was again confronted with the idea that "God" was the answer. That he and only he could help me with my problems. Although it was with the help of something or someone that I was able to sober up, I just couldn't believe it was the God I was taught as a child. The God who, I was taught, hated me. He had to because I was born with so many problems, and those problems only escalated. How could I believe in a God that hates? A lot of Ministers, including my mother, always preached against homosexuality. They said that God was a loving God but only if you went to church every Sunday and gave a tenth of your earnings. I was taught to fear God, and I did, very much so. There was no way in hell I could believe that "that God" would help me stay sober.

But they told me the only way I was going to stay sober was with the help of a power greater than myself. Since I didn't believe in God, I had to believe in something, so I started to believe in that voice that told me I was more than what I had become. It was a strong and loving voice. Gentle but stern. I didn't name him, but I knew he would always be there when I needed him. That voice helped me stay sober for the first two years of my recovery.

Whenever I felt like drinking or smoking dope, I talked out loud, sometimes yelling. He would always answer me, and made sure I had bus fare to my meetings.

At one time I dated men. When I did, the voice of God never became hateful or told me I was going to burn in hell. When I fell in love with a man he smiled upon me. He cradled me in his arms when my lover broke my heart. This was the God I wanted desperately to believe in as a child. I never doubted there was ever a God, I just couldn't believe the creator of the world was a hateful, jealous and vengeful God. My God is a loving God. The voice that I heard, that convinced me to believe I will never be alone, was the God I've been searching for all my life. My quest for spirituality had begun.

Lynnell's E-mail address is:
Not4men@aol.com



American male, I will write down a few thoughts for Mr. Huls to ponder.

First, the church may speak anti-gay messages but they always say that gay people can be saved, albeit on their terms. Well for centuries this same religion was used to enforce and condone slavery. It was said we didn't have souls—some even believe that today. They preached that we, as a people, were lost—no hope. Just put a harness on our backs and work us until we drop dead.

As for the positive media images he claims that we as African Americans have such a vast array of, I would like to see those images. Black people in black face does not count. We are still just there for the amusement of others.

The idea that isolation for gays and the random institutionalization of known homosexuals compared to the enslavement of an entire race is just ridiculous, it does not compare on any level. But what Mr. Huls failed to see is this one simple point: some of us fall into both mixes. Some of us are African American and gay. We should not be forced to choose which bigotry is worst. And as ridiculous as this whole subject is, including my column, it just goes to show, that they are winning, i.e. the bigots, because they are having us compare wounds instead of helping one another heal and fight back. So in the future, if you want to know which kind of hatred is more harmful than the other, just remember neither compares to the harm you are causing by inflicting yourself with the knife that they gave you for nothing.

Divide to Make Powerless

by **D.L. Sanders**

A friend of mine asked me if it bothered me when people compared the struggle between Black civil rights and gay civil rights, or equated them as the same. Sure I have thought about this issue, but as a Black gay man I never really sat down and examined how I felt. Today, I was sitting reading the current issues of **BLACKLINES** and I came across a letter to the editor about this very subject. The writer, Vernon E. Huls, was very upset and proceeded to proclaim that gays and lesbians have suffered more than Blacks.

Mr. Huls begin to say that while it is not OK to preach anti-Black rhetoric from church pulpits, that it was all right to preach anti-homosexual rhetoric. What Mr. Huls failed to see is that you can not compare the suffering from one group to another. Suffering, pain and bigotry are just as hurtful no matter which group it goes to, but since he wrote his mind, as a proud African

What's The "411"

with Preston L. Shumaker
Smart Sex Advice
with an attitude!



Make a Change — Not a Resolution!

The New Year. As we are still in January, bombarded by Arctic Blasts in preparation for February, have you, too, made some sort of New Year's Resolution? Are you on task with the promises you made to yourself, or have they been kicked to the curb? It's quite easy to give up on your goals (short and long term) and as a result become complacent with the decision. The Agony of Defeat can actually become a comfortable place. But after time, you discover that you, too, are in the same predicament as in past years. Sound familiar?!

Trust me Brothers, Sisters, and Bristers, I know. Let me share a personal tale with you.

The year is 1996. In general, it's been a rough year. I lost my mother to breast and liver cancer; my dad suffered two minor strokes and returned to alcohol for comfort; my sister began serving a ten-year sentence for attempted robbery of a white elderly woman, who happened to be my late mother's employer; and my brother was thrown in jail for allegedly beating up his girlfriend. Despite all of these difficulties, I decided to throw myself into my job and community obligations. I continued to be involved with the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus (CGMC), Men of All Colors Together-Chicago (MACT), and the National Association of Black & White Men Together (NABWMT). As the winter holidays approached, I was feeling

incredibly overwhelmed, stressed, and alone. I was burnt out and sought some solitude. I decided to go to Nuremberg, Germany to get away for three weeks and I crashed on a friend's sofa.

"Next year will be different," I told myself. In 1997, I was unaware that my "Mr. Superman" idealism returned with me. Like clockwork, I returned to my overbooked extracurricular activities schedule. I had been cast in CGMC's spring musical show, *Sidetrack III—Last Call*, in several roles. There was much dancing and movement in the show. Dancing was truly my passion. But after three months of rehearsals and two weeks of fine tuning, I had become exhausted and suffered in silence. I struggled a great deal throughout the show and I didn't know why. At the same time, I noticed a butterfly-shaped inflammation in my neck area. I would shake, sometimes uncontrollably. I didn't have a clue what exactly was going on. I just knew I was healthy. After all, I worked out three to five times a week. After the CGMC show, I went to my physician and it was there he told me. I had Hyperthyroidism. The doctor said it was most likely caused by a catastrophic event like my mother's death. And running myself ragged didn't help the condition. He also told me that this condition could cause death if not treated because my thyroid was huge.

After careful self-examination, I discovered I had been

giving, giving, giving to career, community and family—giving my all to everything but myself. It was here that I finally got the message—I had to slow down. The stress of life, work and personal tragedy had finally caught me. I was last on the list. It still took an additional five months to convince myself to go on treatment and relinquish most of my

I finally got the message—I had to slow down. The stress of life, work and personal tragedy had finally caught me. I was last on the list. It still took an additional five months to convince myself to go on treatment and relinquish most of my extracurricular activities.

extracurricular activities, including performing with A Real Read, for which I had recently auditioned and been accepted into the cast.

I vowed to myself that I would not make a new year's resolution but a life change. My mother and mentor, Dorothy Jones, taught me this lesson with her own untimely demise at age 55. I still remember that before she died, she asked me if I was happy with my life. I smiled and simply said, "Not really." She looked at me and gently said, "You will be. Preston, you must understand, you need to do for you. No one else will do your work for

you. You often talked about going back to graduate school. If that's what you want, do it! And do not use my death as a crutch!" she chuckled.

One and a half years later, I have matured by taking on responsibility and accountability for not only my time but my life. I realized that I am only one man—one very human man. In 1998, self will be number one instead of ten. As I looked back, I pushed myself for acceptance in everything that I did to appease others. This is no longer the case. You must recognize your limitations or you will become irritable, negative, prudish, resulting in making yourself physically and mentally sick. Matter of fact, it could kill you!

As always, my mother was right, you must make a choice to take care of business and your body because no one will do it for you! So, whether it's financial independence, weight loss, a vacation, or a master's degree that has escaped your reach, don't continue to put it off. Tomorrow never comes, nor is it promised. Take the initial steps to accomplish your goals by making a plan and sticking to your guns. It's you who will become a better person for it! Furthermore, your lover, family and friends will benefit from your positive demeanor. Try to love and respect yourself and your limits a little bit more this year.

Oh! by the way, I have been accepted into Chicago State's MSW program and already started school on January 8. My health is much better, too! In conclusion, you too can take advantage of the Arctic Blasts and learn from my stupid mistakes—work on yourself for yourself! After all, are you worth it? Thanks, Mama for the advice.

Risin' to the Love We Need

by J.P. Campbell

Have you ever imagined that the world would be a much better place if it only had more Black male virgins? I suppose I never stopped to think about it, because I was too busy scouring the earth for the kind of sexual expertise that simply cannot be found in virgin territory.

Unfortunately, that's quite a limiting philosophy—only concentrating on sexual growth, imagining a man can deepen you on a physical level without regard to the spiritual. I was forced to consider this while watching NBA player A.C. Green on a Christian program on cable.

While I have absolutely no idea what team he plays for (I don't follow sports), knowin' brothas like I do, I'm quite sure he's the only self-professed Black male virgin in the entire NBA, certainly on a vocal, national level. In fact now age 33, he's kind of a one-man-Christian-campaign, urging young people to consider abstinence, having done so for several years in the public eye. He pledges abstinence until he marries.

Now without an examination of his Christian position on gays and lesbians (and I refuse to assume), one is nevertheless compelled to recognize his spiritual courage in breaking with great American male tradition. Specifically when one considers the social role of Black men in general and Black pro-athlete's in particular as cultural sex-symbols, Green is defying the colonial game that says to be a Black male means being a hypermasculine idiot in typical rock 'em, sock 'em robot-fashion, in bed and out.

Further, within the Black community where young brothas cling to black, phallic myths like life-preservers, sex is considered a rite of passage for young males, a social indi-



cator of virile accomplishment. So when Green outs himself as a male virgin, he exposes Black male games by being a non-"playa," as he urges young people to reexamine how they order their sexual lives.

Heretofore, I thought a sex-free environment for young people was nigh impossible—an unrealistic goal pursued by puritanical, bible-toting fanatics who are too pious to say bluntly that young people are fucking themselves to death, choosing instead to cite prophecy, "If you live in sin, you're going to hell—is that what you want?!"

However, what Green is doing is helping to free young brothas from the pressure to actively pursue a meaningless "pimp status." He's forcing an understanding that it is okay to be a Black male adult and a virgin simultaneously, without being a "faggot" or a "freak," unwelcome among "real brothas." Undoubtedly, this is surely needed.

For the most part, none of this is to say that premarital sex or sex without commitment doesn't have its uses, but it is to say that sex (at least the kind worth having) has a decidedly spiritual component which cannot be ignored if one seeks ideal fulfillment. But for those who find talk of adult male virginity ridiculous or unsalable, consider this. When brotha Green does find the woman of his dreams, he'll be able to look into her patient eyes and says, "I've waited for you my whole life." And from the spiritual weight of that alone, she'll swoon. I know I would.

Reaching Out in Oak Park

by Rickey D. Sain, Sr.

The following are excerpts from remarks by Mr. Sain at the closing ceremony for the AIDS Awareness Month Observance at the Oak Park Board of Health Committee on AIDS. Special guest was Geneva Bell, mother & author of *My Rose: An African American Mother's Story of AIDS*.

Tonight, our distinguished panel and guests—Richard Novak, M.D., Nathan L. Linsk, Ph.D., Geneva Bell, and Pamela Allen—have responded indeed to the call for further dialogue and education by stressing the need for continuing efforts toward the understanding and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

At all levels across this nation, as well as locally, concerns about the impact of HIV disease on individuals and families call the community to the next level of awareness.

We are engaged in a global, national, and local fight to stop AIDS. The World Health Organization estimates that the AIDS virus has already infected up to 24 million people, of whom at least 4 million have died.

Based on information supplied by municipal health departments in the United States, the National Centers for Disease Control reported at the end of 1996 that nearly 600,000 Americans from all age groups had AIDS.

Village of Oak Park Health Department statistics show, as but one local example of this tragedy, that since 1983 some 137 residents have been diagnosed with AIDS.

Continuing education on additional ways of preventing HIV will help end this epidemic worldwide and at home. The warmth of the home-like setting here at Cheney Mansion—situated within a lovely neighborhood rich in architectural and social history—was a clear invitation

to add our goodwill efforts and voices to the accumulated efforts and voices worldwide.

The combined goodwill efforts here tonight are now added to the substantial past and present work of national and local groups, service providers, and individuals. Even our school-age youth will submit more than 200 separate essays, each uniquely answering the question of the evening, "How can we work together to stop AIDS?" The hope is that our combined contributions will eventually lead to a future in which a decisive knockout punch will eradicate AIDS—eventually, yet once and for all.

AIDS Awareness Month challenges us to a continuing role in the delivery of that knockout punch—P. U. N. C.H. —"punch."

"P." Promoting ongoing dialogue. Promoting educational and prevention messages like those so movingly communicated tonight in this warm setting by a partnership of consumers and professionals. We thank them, as well as our visitors and guests.

"U." Understanding how we can fight the disease at all levels. Understanding better ways that we can advocate for, and support, improved program services—their availability, their accessibility, their acceptability.

"N." Noting AIDS as a major public health responsibility and challenge. Noting the differing yet similar ways the community responds uniquely to HIV disease.

"C." Celebrating a sense of hope in the future. Celebrating the hope that increased dialogue and knowledge shall overcome the darkness of lives lost and shall be transformed into the light of lives saved.

"H." Heeding the call for greater sensitivity to persons with HIV/AIDS. Heeding the call to work in partnership, to keep on keeping on. Heeding the call to fight a devastating

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Haunted: Life After Diagnosis

Part Three

by Sanford E. Gaylord

I curse the day you came into my life.

Never thought I would have one, yet you're my wife. You're a cruel creature from the bowels of hell. Till death do us part, yet divorce I cry, Awaiting the day, that I see you die.

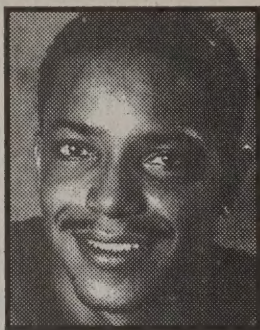
Till death do us part my wretched wife. You haunt me, bequeathing nothing but strife. You've caused anguish and pain in a short time. Dissecting you will help me conquer you

Enabling me to become old wine. I curse you as I thank you my dear wife. Many may think me crazy to hate you, you're invisible to the naked eye.

Haunted by you, till the day that I die.

In part two of this series (January BLACKLINES), I wrote about the therapeutic armamentarium that my doctor and I elected and the regimen of meds that would be utilized in my battle with HIV. With this month's issue, I will focus on my casualties of war, switching regimens, and coming out of darkness.

[Editor's note: Last month, Sanford wrote about some adverse effects of ddI, one of the newer and seemingly promising AIDS drugs. He discussed nausea and vomiting and also wrote, "The most degrad-



ing aspect of this episode was the diarrhea—walking down the street, thinking you have gas, defecating on yourself and being a long way from home.”]

Traveling on public transportation, in my case primarily by el, you notice a whole host of characters preoccupied with talking to fellow riders, reading books, listening to their favorite music with headphones to drown out the beggars/peddlers, or just looking out of the window.

Silently sitting, I was one of those individuals looking out of the window, pondering life issues. Flashing back through moments in time; brothers who had fallen at the front lines and this incredible journey—tour of battle with HIV disease—I remember that unforgettable day that I received my results by phone. Strange how something can lie on your mind, making you ponder, flashing you back through time in a research for answers.

I felt humiliated, as if I were losing myself; losing ground as the point man in my very per-

sonal war. My thoughts were consumed with HIV. The armamentarium had a major backfire and I was sitting in it. One of the many casualties of war that I personally experienced. Side effects, of one of the antiretrovirals that I was taking.

It was almost a week to the day of starting meds that this incident happened. Riding the el, it seemed as though people were staring at me.

I felt ugly inside as well as out, like damaged goods. Having to transfer from one el line to another only heightened my emotions. I found myself staring out the window, wondering how long I could or would have to endure this. I cursed HIV, the meds that were supposed to help me wage a longer battle; live a little longer. I cursed the cruel creature at the root of the problem. I must admit at the time, that included myself and my ignorance so many years ago.

After what felt like an eternity, I made it home. When I did, I peeled out of my clothes and cried with the two showers that I took. I called my brothers on the front lines for advice and much needed support. I was informed that my body would have to become used to the meds and that the symptoms I had experienced were the casualties of war; that they would or should pass. That it was probably the ddI.

Not very thrilling news compared to the day's events.

The subsequent weeks were hell. What got me through it was focusing in on an upcoming show that I had with A Real Read at the Black Ensemble Theatre—making history, being the first Black gay performance ensemble to play there. By the third week of the month, I could not take the side effects anymore. I stopped taking the ddI. The same day, I also called my doctor, James Cunningham, and made an emergency appointment, informed him of my decision. By 8 a.m. the next day I was in his office.

I informed my doctor that I had not taken my evening dose

of meds and that the side effects I had experienced had stopped. He cautioned me about stopping, because antiretroviral's must be strictly adhered to when taking them. Otherwise, it could possibly lead to the virus mutating and developing stronger strains of the virus. That would mean changing regimens again.

After a deliberation, we came up with a new line of attack. Dropping the ddI and replacing it with another antiretroviral, Epivir (3TC).

The next batch of meds, the new regimen, costs roughly \$8,364 annually. Good thing that there is the state AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). I received a prescription from Dr. Cunningham for 3TC. I got them that day before leaving the building. It was enough to hold me over until my new batch was mailed. I rescheduled for a follow up with labs and went home to make a country breakfast. The new regimen arrived in under two weeks.

By the end of the week, I started coming back into focus. My appetite returned and the other side effects dissipated. I did a lot of praying for the first time in a while, during this period. I found solace and new direction at the Church of the Open Door, as well as from a host of true friends who had my back.

Looking back at all of the fear and stress now, I see how much I have matured. Life experiences will do that to you. As I write this article, I have had dreams become realities in 1997. I am feeling fine now. My latest results from labwork have shown that my T-cells have rebounded, even increased, and I have an undetectable viral load.

It's my hope that by telling a bit of my own story, others can find someone they can relate to and become better informed on HIV issues. There are listings for HIV resources inside this magazine. If you would like to speak to someone you can call 1-800-AID-AIDS for the latest HIV information and support services in your area.

UFMCC To Sponsor Historic National African American Conference

"In Our Own Language: A Conference for African Americans in UFMCC" will be held in suburban Washington, D.C., April 16-18. This is the first conference organized entirely by and for African American friends and members of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the world's largest predominantly gay spirituality organization.

Conference participants will include Dr. Kelly Brown-Douglas, professor of theology at Howard University School of Divinity; the Rev. Dellyne Russell-Hinton, associate pastor of Belair United Methodist Church in Belair, MD; the Rev. Sandra Robinson, president of Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies; and the Rev. Darlene Garner, a member of the International Board of Elders of UFMCC and senior pastor of MCC of Northern Virginia.

Conference brochures and information are available by phone at (310) 360-8640 or by e-mail at Info@ufmccchq.com.

History Through Storytelling

by Kathleen Rose Winter

(This the conclusion of MAJ's story, which began in BLACKLINES' January 1998)

MAJ lived in the Cabrini Green public housing project for four years. Eventually, she moved north, to Wilton and Grace streets. She moved with her two sons to this area to be closer to the gay community. She says the perimeter of that area was vast—from Fullerton to Waveland and from Clark/Broadway to Halsted. After her break up with her first female lover, she dated for about three years. The gay scene was "so wonderful" to her—everything seemed to be happening.

Her primary lesbian political activity remained with the Daughters of Bilitis. Her political work within the Black community included activities and memberships in the NAACP, The Woodlawn Organization (TWO), People United to Save Humanity (PUSH)-Operation Bread Basket (which has transformed into PUSH Rainbow Coalition), the Urban League, and Youth Against War and Fascism (YAWF). She also joined North Side community groups. She actively participated in the Lakeview Neighborhood Organization (a housing and political organization that was working to keep the Lakeview area diverse) and the Uptown Neighborhood Coalition.

MAJ remembers TWO and PUSH-Operation Bread Basket when they were located on 63rd Street. PUSH moved on to 79th Street, then finally to 50th and Drexel. Since the middle '60s she has



attended the weekly Saturday meeting held by PUSH. When they moved, she followed. Her participation in these organizations provided her with the opportunity to attend as a delegate to the first International Women's Conference, in 1974, in Mexico City, Mexico. There are so many dimensions to this woman. She is a lesbian. She is Black. She is an empowered woman, a mother, and a voice for many communities. I wondered if any conflict resulted back then because of her diversity. She states within the various organizations, she wasn't "out" as a lesbian. She wasn't hiding her sexual orientation, but rather people seemed to "mind their own business"; they appeared to be united for "the people"—perhaps these folks could see past individual variances and see instead "the big picture."

MAJ lived on the North Side for several years and then moved to the South Side. After years of dating, she had fallen in love with one woman. They began living together in a home that they bought jointly. MAJ was deeply in love. This woman was "her heart." They were together as lovers for five

years. Their intimate relationship ended but they remained house mates for two more years. This relationship had a profound effect on MAJ's heart and soul. When it ended, she found dating very hard. She found that she has to love a woman, before having a truly intimate relationship. To this day, even though she dates, she insists that love must be a factor before any commitments.

With the help of their father, MAJ raised two sons. Even though the father did not live with the family, he remains a strong presence in their lives. She says the children's father is "a good father." The oldest son went into the Army after high school. He came back to Chicago and graduated from DePaul University with a degree in acting. He lives in California and is a successful actor. The younger son, with a degree in food management, gave her one of the greatest gifts a parent can receive from a child—a precocious, pretty, "star-bright-eyed" five-year-old granddaughter.

MAJ is very family focused. In 1985, she and her mother, bought the building they now live in. Her mother has an apartment on the first floor; MAJ lives above her. MAJ's daughter-in-law lived with her throughout her pregnancy and until her granddaughter

was two years old. Now, MAJ gratefully serves as the impromptu baby sitter.

Her family life is important, but it cannot be separated from her spirit of activism—her need to remain empowered. She has suffered through many complicated situations. She has overcome many obstacles. She is college educated and a Black historian. She worked for The Honorable Harold Washington, when he was a Congressman. She was there, with this writer and 50 other people at the Packing House, when Harold announced his candidacy for Mayor of Chicago. Together, we were almost kicked out of the McCormick Inn, the night we celebrated with U.S. Senator elect, Carol Moseley-Braun. (We were very happy and I guess some people cannot appreciate that kind of happiness).

I look at this woman—this symbol—I see the button pinned on her lapel (it's been there for two years—different lapels, of course) that simply says "Listen to Women," and I realize that she is the best example of someone heeding that button's message. ... Woman, mother, grandmother, daughter, fighter, lover, teacher, friend, and one who endures ... "Listen to Women."

AJAMU 2nd Black History Month Program

"Together We Can!" was developed to recognize the contributions and achievements that historical and contemporary African American Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual individuals have made to society. This fun-filled event will include video viewing and organizations booth displays, poetry, dance, singing, awards and a keynote address by Sabrina Sojourner, U. S. Representative of the District of Columbia.

"Recognizing that we all share the same history, "Together We Can!" includes participation from representatives in the at-large community who embrace our vision of a more diversified community," AJAMU said.

The events are Friday, Feb. 20, at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road, in Dallas, Texas. Contact: AJAMU at (817) 654-7510; AJAMU_COLLECTIVE@hotmail.com

All proceeds benefit the Walt Whitman Community School, the AIDS Resource Center, and South Dallas Health Access.

PERSONALS

HINT: When using the voice response system, increase your chances of a match by choosing the **BROWSE** option. **WARNINGS:** 1. We no longer accept for print home phone numbers or addresses. 2. Vice officers sometimes respond to suspect ads in an effort to uncover illegal activity. Note: sex-for-money agreements (even if no sex occurs) are illegal. ISO = In Search Of

MEN

GWPM, 6'1", 165#, 45/y/o, athletic in shape, attractive. Enjoys the usual things. Looking for similar, any race, with sense of humor to share the journey. **NLBox277 (5)**

Couple (34/40) masculine, tall, hairy, mustached; mediterranean type, vicious and sensual in the same time, looking for a third guy. We can meet in Belgium or in your country. Send your photo if possible. Ours in return. **B.P. 2102/B-1000 Bruxelles 1/Belgique (3)**

Passionate and horny GWM 40 5'8" 145, into massage, oral, top ISO Buddy (any race) for hot times and possible LTR. Write **AP Box 481044, Niles, IL 60714 (5)**.

LTR wanted, attractive, healthy, very young looking GWM, 61, 6', 185#, blond, beard, N/S, sincere, quiet, laid-back, stay-at-home type. **VOICE52489**

SBM light skinned, 36, very handsome, seeks a friendship or relationship with slender/feminine pre/post transsexual. Must be very passable. **VOICE52487 (3)**

Love, romance, friendship, endless passionate nights, dreams to share and more, nice looking latino 26, 6', 150. ISO black tall thin guy for serious relationship, you will not be disappointed. **NLBox269 (5)**

Butch-bottom BM, 38, 6', 195#, HIV-, fit, smart, seeks HIV-, fit, smart, masc top, 35-50. Fax (202) 546-0219; EMAIL: **commuterDC@aol.com (3)**

Slim Black/Hispanic, 25-40, wanted for fun/friendship by goodlooking GWM top, 54, 160#, educated, caring, open-minded. **Photo/phone to Box 6080, Evanston, IL 60204 (3)**

GWM, top, 40s, 6', 170# with thick russet bush looking for GBM, GHM, GWM bottom for friendship. Send recent snapshot **NLBox271**

Love sex. Attractive BM top straight acting 5'9" 150# 30yr. Discreet, nice body, seeks slim boyish guys under 35 (any race). **Lee (312) 216-9101 pager. (3)**

Butch-bottom BM, 38, 6', 195#, HIV-, fit, smart, seeks HIV-, fit, smart, masc top, 35-50. Fax (202) 546-0219; EMAIL: **commuterDC@aol.com (3)**

Attr. 41, masc. Black male seeks in shape, stocky, masculine, mature, Black and Hispanic males for fun friendship, outings, and more. Ages 35-59 only (No sissies or transvestites.) **Anthony, PO Box 408443, Chgo, IL 60640. Pager (312) 830-2344. (3)**

BM seeks incarcerated Black males to send true tales of "forced" prison sex. Erotic imagination, realistic dialogue, and good writing skills. Please send to: **1507 E. 53rd, Box#674, Chicago, IL 60615-4509 (3)**

Handsome Black oral top/bottom ISO average to large size BM over 29, up to 300#. **NLBox 265 (3)**

Experience heaven on earth, be touched from head to toe. Why wait for the elusive heaven? GWM, swimmer's build, looking for friend to exchange body massage. Finally be in touch with yourself. Write **PO Box 14121 Chicago, IL 60614-0121 (2)**

Personals

How to place an ad:

- The first 20 words are free; each additional word is 25¢. Ads run 2 Months. ADS ARE FOR ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Groups wishing to place ads in personals can do so at CLASSIFIED rates (\$10/30 words for 1 month, 3 months \$27).
- In addition to your ad, send your name, address, home phone & signature.
- You will be assigned a free voice-mailbox number, unless you specify you do not want one. You can record a voice-mail message for free; retrieving messages costs \$1.49 per minute. Upon receipt of your ad, we will send

your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.

- You can rent BLACKLINES mailbox/\$6 per month, if you wish to have written responses forwarded to you; we send them out once a week. (If you have your own PO Box, voice mail #, or beeper #, we request \$6 per 2 months. We DO NOT accept ads with home address/phone)
- Deadline is 10th of each month for next BLACKLines. You can also run in Nightlines and Outlines and En La Vida.

How to respond to an ad:

- If an ad ends with an NLV #, you can reply by mail or by phone to that ad (some ads will list an address + a voice-mail # in parentheses—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail).
- If ad ends with NL BOX #, you can only reply by mail. If it ends with Voice #, you can only reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).
- To respond in writing, send letter to the NLV # or NL BOX # specified at the end of the ad, c/o BLACKLines, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chgo, IL 60657. Respond to all others ads as specified at the end of the ad.
- To leave a voice-mail message (\$1.49/min.), use touchtone phone to call 1-800-464-0101. Punch 1 & 5-digit NLV # or NL Voice # to respond to that ad — or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages.

(773) 871-7610 (Tuesdays 9-5 only)

Ad should read

Please also run ad in (no extra money): ☐ Outlines ☐ Nightlines ☐ En La Vida
FREE voice-mail number (phone responses only!) ☐ I Do NOT want voice box #

PERSONALS for ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES.

Classified rates (\$10 for 1 month, 3 months \$27).

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION—MUST BE FILLED OUT:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Signature: _____

Cost of the ad:

1st 20 words, 2 months FREE

Additional words 25¢ ea. \$ _____

MailBox # (\$6 per month) \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Send to: BLACKLines/Outlines, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

I am a Top GBM 50 yr 5'11 1/2" ISO GBM who wants a handsome lover. I like the movies, theater, dining out, etc. Must be straight acting masculine enjoy staying home. No bars, no games, HIV-, no drugs. 30-50 employed. Letter and photo, please. **NLBox261**

Attractive BM Top straight-tacting 5'9" 150# 30yr discreet hard body, love sex. Seeks slim boyish guys under 35yrs (any race). **Lee, pager**

(312) 216-9101(2).

WOMEN

Alchemist, poet, priestess; into metaphysics, music & the moon. Seeks SG wise woman for mystic union. (773) 395-3517 (3)

Leave your U-Haul at home and explore spontaneity, passion, and fun. 31, N/S, athletic, educated, professional ISO N/S, mature, thought-provoking, versatile, open-minded, 25-40 woman. Ideas, creativity and sense of humor

a must. **VOICE52512 (3)**

Attractive lesbian seeks sexy, emotionally-sound lesbian couple for adventurous three-way. Safe sex, good communication important. No games, no boys. **VOICE 52508 (3)**

Call for Racquetball—Women's league forming in Northern/Northwest burbs. All levels. Please leave name, phone and skill level. **NL/VOICE52506 (3)**

GBF, 20, 5'9", ISO femme (18-25). Looking for someone special to love. **VOICE 52504 (3)**.

GF 31 y/o Black Hispanic with 2 kids looking for love. One that is pretty fine 5'2" or shorter with job and time to play. Must be mature. Gay women. **VOICE 52502 (3)**

Wanted: Nice girlfriend for our bestest pal! She's 51, unconventional, BiSWF. Shallow details: 5'9", medium build, fine boned, cat allergic, non-blond. She's 'indoorsy': bright, well read/traveled and fun. Interests: Arts, modern music, Scrabble, British telly, and road trips (doesn't drive). Her idea of camping is no room service. Seeking LTR with intelligent, independent bi/lesbian woman. Requirements: well read, varied interests. Age/race not important. No neophytes, big hair, or separatists. **NL/VOICE 52496 (3)**

GBF, 35, mother of one

has a good balance of work/play, outgoing, serious about responsibilities with a great sense of humor ISO mature woman. No Bi's, druggies or heavy drinkers. Smoking OK. **Pager (312) 820-0810. (3)**

You're ISO working professional/independent/sensitive/considerate/affectionate/attractive/single woman beautiful inside and out. Join the Network. **Tiffany (708) 686-7329. NLBox998 (4)**

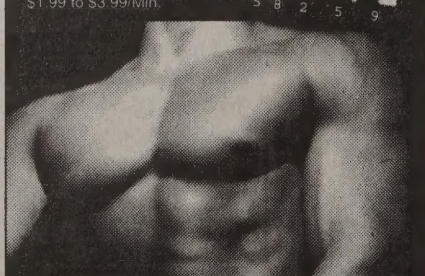
Mix & Match

Attractive bi-curious BF is interested in participating in a threesome with two other women or another man and woman. If you feel that you can show this new girl around the block, give me a call. **VM (773) 479-7163**

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SOUTH AFRICA LIBRARY LOOKING FOR A HOME

Following are excerpts from *EXIT, Southern Africa's Gay & Lesbian Newspaper*, about a project needing support.

Well over one thousand gay and lesbian books and videos, numerous periodicals (including an almost-complete set of the first homosexual magazine to be published in the States in the 1950s) desperately need a home.

This collection, unique in its size and scope in South Africa, was 'boxed up' when the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service plus the Library had to move from their premises in High Street, Berea [South Africa]. The Library first saw the light of day in February 1985 when it was opened as a service to the gay community under the auspices of the first really big gay organisation, GASA Rand. Its first home was literally 'in the closet' (i.e. the bathroom of the flat in Burton Court, Pretoria Street, Hillbrow, used by GASA — shelves were put up around the bathroom walls).

The 'home' must be stable, in a safe and accessible location, and lockable.

That's the background as to why the Library is looking for a home. If anyone can help or give suggestions or contacts, please phone Tony on (011) 728-2340.

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World View: World Wide Web

by Andrew
Davis

Palm "Swings"!

Usually I don't devote my column to endorsing a particular product, but there is one item I find practically irresistible—the 3Com Palm Pilot. In fact, I have a friend who basically has lost her fiancé to it. Basically, it's a PDA (personal digital assistant) that fits in your pocket. It utilizes handwriting software (called Graffiti) so that you can write memos to yourself or e-mail your honey. Using the Pilot is simple and quick—thankfully. It also includes a keyboard that you can use when you don't feel like using the pen. In addition, this gizmo can connect you to the Net; as previously mentioned, its modem works with e-mail programs. Furthermore, there are more than 150 Web pages devoted to accessories, applications, and games; you could even get a

pocket-sized biorhythms program if necessary. As you can see, there are hundreds of potential uses for this gadget—which could easily lead to addiction. Can a Palm Pilot Anonymous group be far behind?

Andrew's Picks:

1. SGL (<http://www.amassi.com/sgl.htm>) is a site that focuses on "same-gender-loving Sisters & Brothers." Intriguing bits include an article on ancient African SGL and an item on the white historical take on gay politics.

2. RuPaul Explains It All (<http://www.orangecoast.com/rupaul.htm>) well, explains it all. This site is basically a transcript of an interview with the diva, who discusses everything from her thoughts on Californians to the impact of the movie *Barbarella* on her life.

3. Do people mistake you for Bryant Gumbel? Worse, do you want people to mistake you for Bryant Gumbel? If so, you might like to look at Buppies On Line (<http://www.buppie.com/>)—which includes wardrobe hints, political news, and even a resumé databank.

Feel free to e-mail me at geminil@nwu.edu.

SAIN from 28

disease by eventually delivering—once and for all—a medically decisive blow, a final knockout punch, as our nation did with polio more than 50 years ago.

That's P. U. N. C. H.—promoting, understanding, noting, celebrating, heeding.

These are some of tonight's recommended actions as we leave the warmth of this inside space and venture into the cold of outside spaces. The hope is that these actions will ignite greater awareness and acceptance of HIV/AIDS in the future.

Once again, thank you, distinguished panelists and guests. The Village of Oak Park Board of Health Committee on AIDS expresses profound gratitude to you for furthering this partnership and dialogue on an important health concern.

As your program notes show, many helped make this an exceptional evening. As we close, I thank the co-sponsoring agencies and organizations especially. The partnership of the Village Health Department, director Bob Mathis, health educator Catherine

McNamara, the Board of Health, Dr. Karen Antell, my colleagues on the Committee on AIDS, along with my friend and partner Jim Boushay, and other friends and neighbors, combined with those co-sponsoring agencies and organizations, together enabled us to ask—and respond to—the question, "How can the community work together to fight AIDS?"

Being in this space tonight answers an emphatic "amen!"—an emphatic "yes!" to this important partnership and question.

Again, thank you, everybody. Good night.

OTHER CHICAGO AREA RESOURCES

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OTHER Clubs OF INTEREST

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Affinity & Bro. II Bro. Youth 773-288-6900, 312-409-7609, x3
African American Womyn's Alliance
P.O. Box 198573, Chgo 60619-8573773-731-0279
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outlines@suba.com <http://www.suba.com/~outlines/>
Brother II Brother, Community Outreach773-288-6900
Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays,
P.O. Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181312-409-4917
Chgo Gay & Lesbian Marching Band(773) 743-5738
Church of the Open Door FAX (773) 778-0178773-778-3030
Black lesbisay/trans/heterosexual Church, 5954 S. Albany
The Committee, 2300 N. Clybourn, #32, 60614 773-235-0295
Greater Chicago Committee, P.O. Box 146642, 60614-6642
Healthline 312-661-9153, prevent. 773-674-0429 312-670-9660
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Horizons Community Services773-929-HELP
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Les Femmes Amies312-232-0787
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Minority Outreach Intervention Proj, FAX 312-986-0928
1255 S. Wabash, Suite 2-S, 60605312-986-0661
National Black L&G Leadership Forum202-483-6786
Onyx/Chicago leather/men, 1340 Irving, #188, 60613
PAC Social Club, South Side for mature lesbians
of African Descent, PACSOCIALC@aol.com
Parents, Friends & Family of L&Gs/South Side 773-488-7711
Phrasory parties for all lesbians and gays312-409-6637
Roseland Community Hospital773-995-6469
Stop AIDS/African American Program
1718 E. 75th St., 60649773-752-7867
Test Positive Aware/Brothers United in Support773-404-8726
TransGenes trans support312-839-5541
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Yahimba, 1012-1/2 Dodge, Evanston, IL 60202847-328-7715
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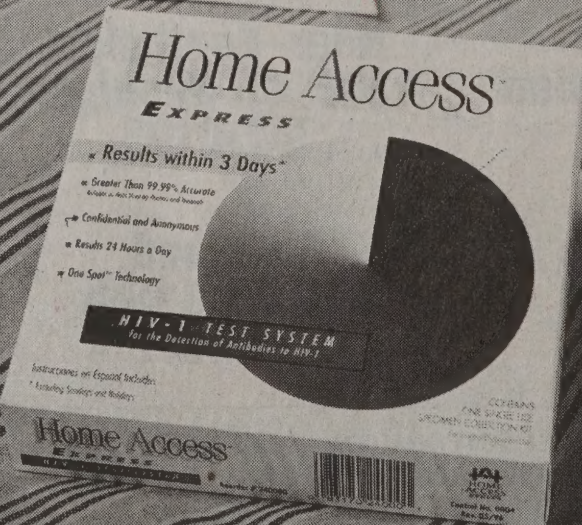
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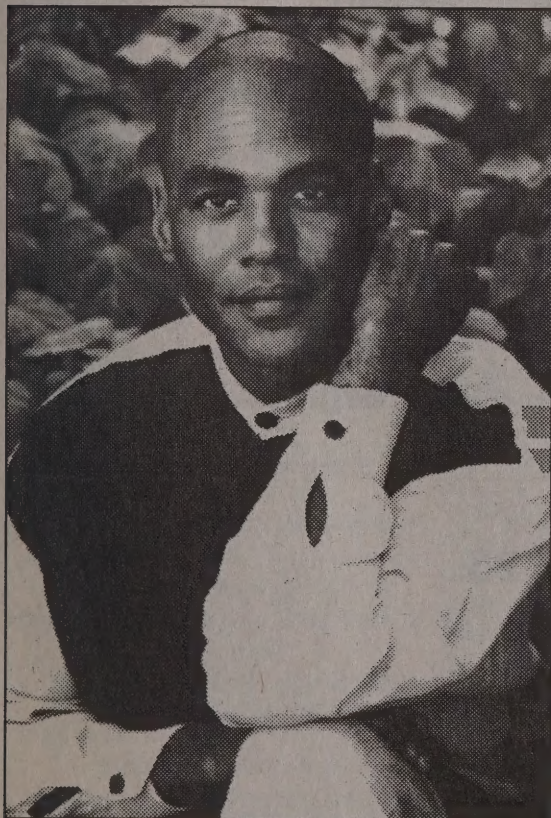
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Chicago Black Lesbians
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See pages 18-20 for interviews, previews.

ALSO INSIDE: BARBARA JORDAN's life
of passion, politics, and secrets.

AIDS Walk adds directors

ALL GOD's CHILDREN reviewed



Phill Wilson, Marjorie Hill (top right) and poet
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- Creed-Manifesto Group, Call Michael Harrington, 773.465.6666
- Dinner Meetings, Call Neena Hemmady, 773.271.7359

Other groups are still forming. Call for information.

Presented in cooperation with Outlines/Nightlines/Blacklines/En La Vida and Affinity, Association of Latin Men in Action, Amigas Latinas, Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays, Chicago Professional Networking Association, Clubhouse Productions, Gay, Lesbian Straight Education Network, Horizons Community Services, Howard Brown Health Center, Lesbian Community Cancer Project, Khuli Zaban & SideTrack.

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BLACK LINES

March, 1998
Volume 3, Number 3

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Published by Lambda Publications, publishers
of: OUTLINES, Nightlines Weekly, En La Vida,
OUT! Resource Guide, CLOUT! Business Report

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<http://www.suba.com/~outlines/>

LAMBDA PUBLICATIONS,
1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D,
CHICAGO, IL 60657 USA.

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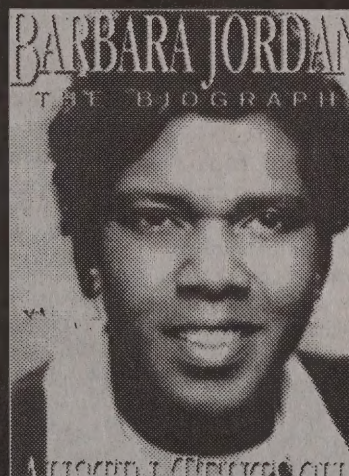
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DEADLINE is the 5th of
each month for articles,
calendar, photos, art,
poetry, viewpoints, etc.

Material used on a
space-available basis.



Coretta Scott King is the featured speaker at this year's Lambda Legal Defense Bon Foster luncheon, Tuesday, March 31; (312) 663-4413. See page 21 for a review of a new book about the life of political pioneer Barbara Jordan.



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Editorial

by LaJaunessee
Jordan

Last month, I said I had not written an editorial because life had become much too intense. Ardis Mc Bell, 43, who battled metastatic breast cancer for almost five years, made her transition. Although Ardis discovered the lump in her breast at an early stage, her cancer was stubborn—as it is in many African-American womyn—and spread throughout much of her neck and chest areas and eventually to the lining of her heart, causing her heart to beat close to 200 times per minute. Normal is 60 to 100.

Breast cancer in African-American womyn tends to be more aggressive and does not respond as well to treatment. This is partially due to most of the research related to breast cancer being done on whites—and even on men. Yes! Breast cancer research being done on men! There was also a study done on white womyn along the lakeshore.

Ardis requested that her body be donated to a Black university, where fewer complicated cases are available, to further research and education among minorities.



I met Ardis at the DuSable Museum, when some of the Black womyn who attended the international womyn's conference in Beijing, China were discussing their experiences. A well-known Black South Side minister said he was tired of Black womyn having a "pity party" and putting Black men down. Ardis stood up and delivered some choice words to him. She informed him that we were not having a pity party but were discussing facts and that each woman spoke from her personal experiences, and that some included Black men not being responsible in some areas, such as parenting. Later, the moderator said, "The lesbians were protesting and another group was protesting against the lesbians. And that was good!" She was obviously of the same mind as another older Black woman that I talked with in my hotel at the Lesbian and Gay March on Washington. She asked me if I

was for "them" or against "them." I said, "I am 'them.'" She looked shocked and said, "I didn't know Black people did that!" So, after the moderator made those remarks, Ardis immediately sprang up like a Jack-in-the-box and became the first in a series of critics of the moderator. We instantly became friends.

Ardis continued kicking ass and taking names. One day at the doctor's office a social worker called several elderly Black womyn into her office one-by-one. And one-by-one they came out with a strange look on their faces and clutched a brown paper bag. Finally Ardis asked what was in the bags. The social worker had given all of those elderly Black womyn blonde wigs. Ardis said, "She knows better! She's Black!" She collected all of them and threw them into the social worker's office. She has been an advocate for womyn who had difficulty talking with their doctors. Ardis also used her sharp tongue trying to demonstrate her reality to a support group of suburban womyn who were trying to schedule their chemotherapy and radiation around cruises and other events, when she was barely staying afloat and was making her treatment a priority. Ardis took the Cancer in Underserved Populations Conference by storm (see Nov. '97 BLACKLINES).

Ardis was an important part of the Lesbian Community Cancer Project's volunteer training, and was a client. Her mother asked that LCCP be taken out of her obituary. Ardis' 20-year-old daughter, Jeanine (See Dec. '97 BLACKLINES for her Million Woman March work) refused to remove LCCP. Ardis' mother and most family members had not been involved in her care until about six weeks prior to her transition, when she could no longer climb stairs and her brother would carry her up and down. Ardis had been sick for almost five years.

She had been in the hospital, including intensive care many times. And her mother who lived a few blocks from her had never visited her in the hospital and seldom came to her home. Only her daughter and cousins were around throughout, in addition to her family of choice. We went to the doctor every Tuesday to refill the 24/7 chemotherapy, to get blood drawn, to get blood transfusions, and on and on. I thought I was a super butch until I saw some of the tests and procedures Ardis went through, and I realized I don't think I could have made it.

During her last week, I was with Ardis much of the time. She seemed much better. I spent the night on Sunday and was there half of Monday. Tuesday was a doctor day so I was with her from early afternoon on. She was extremely alert and witty. I left Ardis close to midnight—I was only home about 20 minutes when I got the call. Her mom was pissed that her cousin called me first. I headed back to Evanston and was there for the next week. Amid unbelievable turmoil and family madness, we had Ardis' memorial service/going away party. We then packed everything into a 24-foot U-Haul—away from her family—and drove to Tennessee (where Jeanine attends Fisk University). The woman I was seeing said, "You fucking disappeared! You hurt me by neglecting me!" and ended things. This was after being told several times, "You're so wonderful. I don't know how any woman could let you get away." So my loss begot loss—or maybe not. But life got too intense. So now I say, "Goodbye" to a woman whom I love very much who was in cardiac intensive care, telling me to bring my BLACKLINES work for her to type because "It will take you all day and I can do it in a few minutes."

Thanks for all cards and wishes. Sorry if I haven't gotten back to you.

UIC

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Meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday
At MOIP Offices, 1255 S. Wabash

Wednesday, April 8, 7-9 p.m.

Hey Fag! Internalized Homophobia

Wednesday, April 22, 7-9 p.m.

Sex & The Positive Man

BROTHERS United Together

A discussion group for HIV positive men
Meets every Tuesday, 7-9 p.m.
STOP AIDS Office
1718 East 75th Street

For information **BROTHERS CAN Groups**,
call STOP AIDS @ **773.752.7867**
located at 1718 East 75th Street Office

AIDS Walk Expands Board, People of Color Coalition Reply Cautiously

by P.J. Engelbrecht

AIDS Walk Chicago announced Feb. 27 that the fundraising consortium was expanding its board of directors. Five new board members not directly affiliated with the consortium's 12 HIV/AIDS service agencies started their Board of Director terms in March, joining a dozen HIV/AIDS agency representatives who are mostly top-level administrators.

"We're more than a month ahead of schedule in expanding the AIDS Walk board," said board president Chuck Hoag, executive director of Chicago House. AIDS Walk has been reworking its structure and strategic plan since last fall. The re-think followed the People of Color Coalition's serious critique of AIDS Walk last year.

The new board members beginning two-year terms include three persons of color. Gwendolyn Moore is a member of Trinity United Church of Christ, 400 W. 95th St. Waldo E. Johnson, Ph.D., is a University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration asst. professor experienced in poverty research and HIV/AIDS programming. Monica Ochoa, program coordinator for the Chicago Dept. of Public Health's Office of Hispanic Affairs, was one of the judges in AIDS Walk's external grant-making process last year, which benefited a few non-member agencies.

The two other new appointees, both white, were already directly affiliated with the charity effort. Thomas Flint, manager of Loop haberdashery Bigsby & Kruthers, has been volunteer manager for AIDS Walk since 1989; and Terry Johnson, Walgreens district pharmacy supervisor, is a four-year member of the AIDS Walk

corporate roundtable. (Walgreens has installed an on-site pharmacy at AIDS Walk consortium member Howard Brown Health Center.)

"Our new members have fresh ideas that will help us achieve the goals in the strategic plan we developed this past fall to expand and strengthen the Walk," Hoag said. "We look forward to working with them this year, and thank them for making this commitment to serving AIDS Walk and the people who benefit from its proceeds."

The new board members were selected for their ability to "augment the strengths of the current board" and to "help us achieve the goals in our strategic plan," noted board development committee chair Linda Traeger, who is vice president of Heartland Alliance. Currently, the board does not include any known HIV+ persons.

Board communications committee chair Russell Milligan pointed out that a newly developed "1998 marketing communications plan" has also been implemented a month ahead of schedule, saying the plan is expected to "help us support the expansion of AIDS Walk. ... We have aggressive goals and look forward to implementing them during the 1998 season." Milligan represents Ancilla and Harbor Home Health (in near-west suburban Oak Park) of St. Elizabeth's Hospital (North Side locations).

Traeger particularly cited the AIDS Walk intent to "grow and move forward." Last September, AIDS Walk 8 fell thousands of dollars short of its \$2 million goal, which would have set a Walk fundraising record. Toward year's end, then-executive director Paul Hook admitted

the People of Color Coalition boycott of the Walk may have affected the fundraising total.

Hook resigned in January and has not been replaced. (Reportedly, one of the new board members had applied for the ED post. One source suggested that, rather than replace Hook, the AIDS Walk board may hire a special events firm to manage the Walk, reserving administrative control itself.)

A Coalition Leader Reacts

When OUTLINES/EN LA VIDA/BLACKLINES contacted PCC spokesperson Renae Ogletree on March 16 to ask about the Coalition's reaction to the AIDS Walk board expansion announcement, Ogletree responded pointedly, "I've yet to see it." That is, several weeks after the original press release, AIDS Walk had not communicated directly with the community organization most intensely interested in AIDS Walk's progress.

Hook had promised the watchdog group open dialogue and direct communication so long ago at an August 1997 confrontation in the AIDS Walk offices. "I hoped they would be willing to engage in a meaningful dialogue," Ogletree said. "[But] they've not yet done that." In the meantime, PCC has pursued discussions under the auspices of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations.

PCC had insisted that persons of color, preferably community leaders and not just agency administrators, be added to the Walk board. AIDS Walk had assured critics that the planned board expansion would address such concerns, and indeed, two of the five new directors are African-

Americans, one is Latina, and the remaining two are whites

Ogletree expressed initial approval of the AIDS Walk expansion efforts. "I'm excited and pleased that they have identified people of color [i.e., Moore, Johnson and Ochoa]," she said. "It's a good step. ... [But] just because they brought new people on doesn't mean the issues are going to change."

Ogletree noted that none of the new directors has clear "links to the community." That is, they are not well-known in communities of color, much less recognized community leaders, no matter how able they are. It was precisely such a disregard for connection and cooperation between the AIDS Walk hierarchy and people and communities of color that prompted the PCC criticism and boycott in the first place.

The AIDS Walk board has been under direct fire since August from the People of Color Coalition. The PCC has charged AIDS Walk with institutional racism and insensitivity to the needs of persons in communities of color, particularly since no AIDS Walk member-agency is sited specifically in a community of color. The only community of color-located original consortium member, Kupona Network, formerly of 4611 S. Ellis, folded a year ago and has not been replaced.

Now, the main offices of all AIDS Walk member-agencies are situated on Chicago's largely white North Side, many focusing their efforts on the white gay male community. Most new HIV/AIDS cases are found in communities of color, particularly on the West and South sides.

"The POC wants to support [the new AIDS Walk board members] appointments," Ogletree confirmed. "Hopefully, these ... people will really work with [other] people of color."

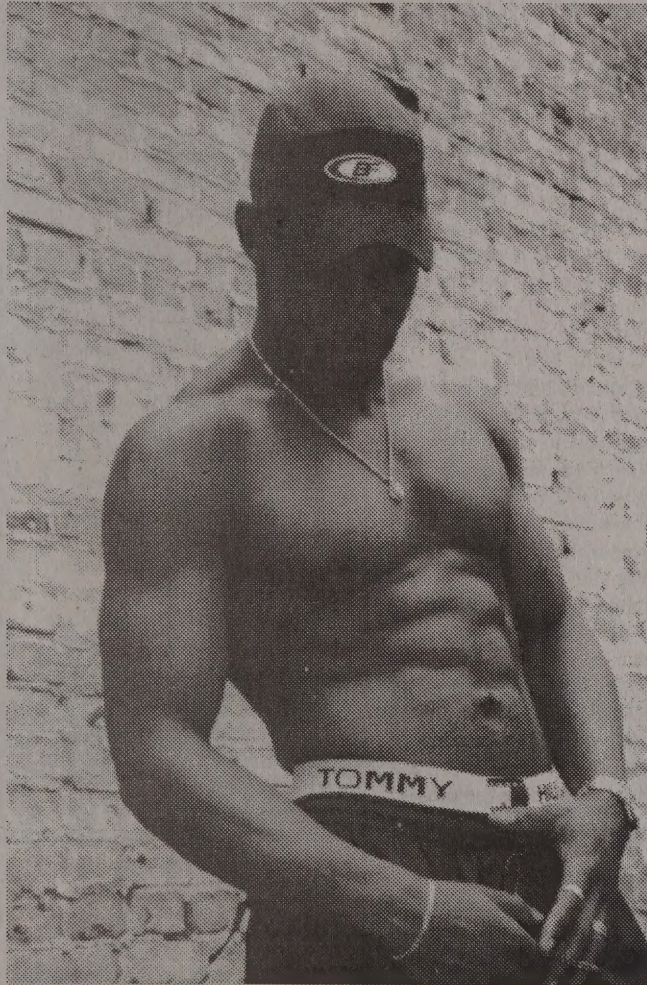
No PCC member applied for the board openings, though

Turn to page 29

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News to Use

New Group Gets Permit for Rocks

by Robert Schultz

Marc Loveless and Michael O'Connor are spearheading the effort to organize this year's Belmont Rocks celebration Sunday, June 28. This represents a change from the effort lead by Bob Yeoworth's Clubhouse Productions, which had organized and produced the free event for the last several years.

For the last four years, with an increasing degree of sophistication, Clubhouse in conjunction with other community businesses, organizations, and groups had been successful in leveraging the resources needed to accommodate the largest public gathering of Chicago's Black lesbian/gay/trans community. Even with that effort, Yeoworth and others had to make individual financial contributions to assure the success of the day. The more than 20-year tradition of gathering at the Rocks dates back to the time when legendary DJ, Grammy award winner, and Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame inductee Frankie Knuckles hosted the event as an additional Pride activity.

Loveless and O'Connor have held two organizational meetings to date, and both of them confirmed that they have acquired the park permit for this year's event. Last year Yeoworth held the permit.

Loveless and O'Connor also stated their plans to have a not-for-profit group made up from the community take over the production of the event. Sources involved with last year's effort feel that the process involved in organizing this year's event already raises questions. Key participants from last year's planning group weren't contacted. Yeoworth and others involved with last year's effort related incidents where Loveless and O'Connor added unnecessary drama to the organizing efforts that turned peo-

ple off, and cited issues of accountability, credibility, and lack of follow through.

When asked about the change, Renae Ogletree, who was actively involved in last year's event said, "The community had a chance to build on something that existed before instead of starting from scratch with something new." She wondered about the motivations of Loveless and O'Connor and their efforts to exclude those involved with planning last year's event. Yeoworth expressed dismay at Loveless and O'Connor's move. Yeoworth's dismay centered on the loss of the acquired experience of those who have previously organized the event.

O'Connor and Loveless insist their outreach to plan for this year's event has been broad. "We have consistently tried to outreach to many folks," said O'Connor. Both Loveless and O'Connor said they were willing to work with anyone and everyone including Yeoworth.

The most important overriding issue everyone cited was the need to have sufficient planning for the crowd, and an understanding with the police. Shelton Watson confirmed his involvement in past years in successful meetings with Ald. Bernie Hansen to ensure that the Rocks would continue.

In the 1970s there was an incident when the Rocks event was forcibly ended by police on horses. No one interviewed ever wants to see that sort of tragedy reoccur.

Any one wanting to help organize the Rocks event can phone (312) 315-3128.

Man claims bias

by LaJaunessee Jordan

Roylove McIntosh, a Black gay man, told BLACKLINES that he was fired from his management position at Hollywood Video in Hyde Park because he is gay. He claims that he had left a management position with another company because he was to train at Hollywood Video to "get my own store." McIntosh stated that in

New Police chief attacks anti-gay bigotry

Terry Hillard (RIGHT), Chicago's new Superintendent of Police, spoke against anti-gay violence during a March 3 press conference at Horizons. Hillard encouraged cooperation in eliminating bias crime and praised previous police chief Matt Rodriguez for fostering better police-community relations. "More gays and lesbians are coming forward to report hate crimes," said Hillard, "[but] if there is one victim who does not come forward, it is one too many. ... Police officers are your allies." To contact Horizons' 24-hour anti-violence hotline, call (773) 871-CARE.

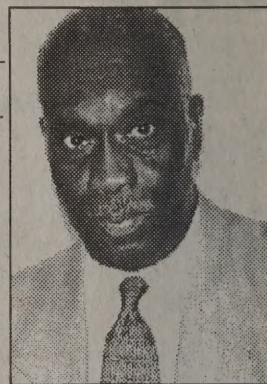


Photo by Israel Wright. See the March 4 OUTLINES for a report.

December, it was discovered that a friend of his was also friends with another employee. He believes the mutual friend discussed his sexuality with the co-worker who told other employees. McIntosh told BLACKLINES that he saw complimentary letters about him in the trash, so he sent one in himself to see if it would make it into the file. He didn't get a chance.

McIntosh said Hollywood Video employees, including his supervisor and the district manager, talked about his sexuality and some even made jokes. He said after he had been off from work for two days with bronchitis, his boss, who was with the district manager, said, "You were holding hands with Michael (another employee). That's why you got bronchitis." He said the two then laughed.

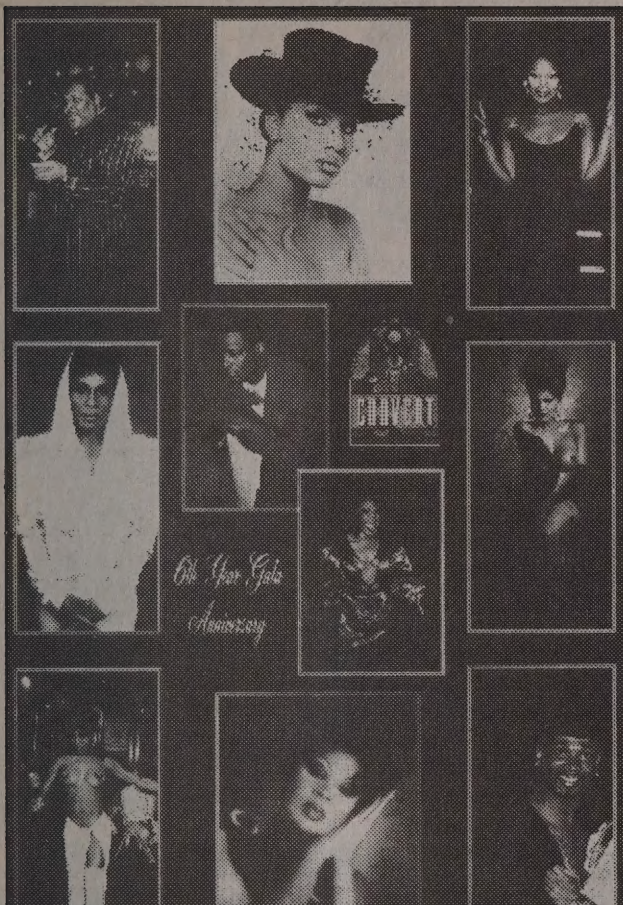
McIntosh alleges his boss would make statements such as, "Just quit! I want you to quit! Have some dignity. You don't want this to get out! I don't want any faggots working here or anywhere else! If anybody calls for employment, I will make it so you won't be hired." McIntosh said he called the corporate office and explained what was going on and the next day that he worked, his supervisor told him he was fired due to "company policy."

McIntosh said that in the conversation that he openly taped, with another manager present, he inquired further about the

reason and the boss said it was because he left work 20 minutes early the previous work day. He said he reminded his boss that he had demanded that he leave early during the boss' rage. McIntosh said his boss said he was fired for removing late fees when customers said they did not bring their items back late. McIntosh said his boss yelled at him and told him to do that. That boss, Eric Kovach, denied any discrimination in the store based on McIntosh's sexual orientation. Kovach said: "I didn't know he was gay. ... The customer is always right. If they say they don't owe late fees, then they don't owe late fees." This reporter amassed a late fee at that same Hollywood Video in the amount of \$37. I went in to rent movies, expecting to have it declined. When I was informed of my late fee I said, "What do you mean I owe \$37?" The clerk said, "You'll have to talk to the manager," and rung up my videos and told me when to return them. I don't know if the fee was removed, because the movies I rented are again being returned late.

McIntosh stated that Kovach "is lying. He knew! Everybody knew!" Both McIntosh's brother and his partner told BLACKLINES that he comes home from work "almost in tears" often.

Two corporate employees claimed ignorance of the problem and a public relations person has not returned out calls.



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Don't forget Diva's Pajama Jam! Sunday, April 19.

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Preston L. Shumaker, Workshop Coordinator

Sponsored by Sinai Family Health Centers

What's The "411"

with Preston L. Shumaker
Smart Sex Advice
with an attitude!



Make Your Opinion Known

Greetings, Readers. As we prepare for the spring, there is much happening on the HIV front. First, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has proposed mandatory name tracing for persons testing HIV positive in our state. This issue is indeed an explosive one. I admit I was taken by surprise when I discovered IDPH had supported such an extreme measure. Dr. John Lumpkin, IDPH Director, stated "we have carefully studied the issue of name reporting for two years and believe the time has come to treat HIV like other sexually transmitted diseases." After 17 years combating HIV/AIDS phobia in various communities, we cannot escape one simple fact: HIV still is unlike any other sexually transmitted disease of our time. We must not be fooled into a false sense of security because we have made a few technological advances with medication treatments such as protease inhibitors and viral load detection. We can not relax, unfortunately, because much bigotry and ignorance associated with HIV Disease continues to permeate and fester in many communities **ESPECIALLY COMMUNITIES OF COLOR**. The HIV clock continues to tick.

I do agree Illinois needs a more accurate means of addressing HIV disease. However, in my opinion, name reporting is NOT the way to proceed. I hope wherever you are personally on this issue, please at least make your opinion known! A significant part of this whole political process is YOUR VOTE!!! WE EACH

CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Furthermore, community members should not leave this decision strictly up to government. It is ultimately YOUR responsibility to ask PROBING questions and challenge policies if your questions are not answered. To get you started, here are some questions you may wish to ask local advocates, lobbyists, and taxpayers to consider before allowing your Illinois General Assembly to simply vote yes for this proposed mandate.

Still not convinced? A bit more Soul food for thought. Ponder, (1) IDPH's new proposal will be mandating doctors to report to local health departments their HIV client's status. Would this governmental policy have a potential negative ripple effect discouraging African-Americans & Hispanics not to test based on historical governmental mistreatment (e.g. Tuskegee Experiment)? (2) In addition, IDPH stated the name reporting mandate will "... facilitate getting people sooner, because under the current anonymous system, many people do not show up to receive their test results." How would this new mandate assist in this effort if the current system is NOT working? (3) Although 31 states are already implementing such a policy, why aren't the three major states with the most AIDS cases (e.g. California, New York, and Illinois respectively) following other state's examples? Finally, (4) HIV client confidentiality is an important component in treating this disease. Under this new law, has IDPH considered the possibility of HIV suicidal resurgence as a result of this

new mandate or do they not care? Moreover, how will local health departments protect an HIV-positive person's right to privacy? Remember, the case in Florida? A health department professional had a floppy disk with over 2,000 AIDS-impacted individual's names, violating client confidentiality by showing his friends at a local bar. Of, course they cannot guarantee confidentiality.

So, why the rush? There are many questions still to contemplate before we as a state blindly make such a potentially disastrous decision. Sometimes, what sounds good may not be good! In my humble opinion, it is up to YOU to inform the Illinois General Assembly to take more time to assess other tracking options like the tracing unique identifier system. Research shows in other countries, this system did work and/or could possibly be modified a bit and utilized in Illinois. It does not make a difference how many national agencies support this measure, if LOCAL community advocates are not involved in the negotiating process. When AIDS rates are seemingly on a decline in some communities, it is far better to err in a more cautious planning process than to simply allow a governmental agency to determine what they think is in our best interest. Let community actions speak louder than government words! OH! FYI—On March 25, the Illinois Federation for Human Rights is Lobbying at the State Capital. Call Laird Petersen for further details at (773) 477-7173. BY THE WAY, the clock is still ticking but the BAND DOES NOT HAVE TO PLAY ON. As

always, Peace and blessings, readers. Comments? Questions, e-mail me at PrestonMSW@aol.com.

As the weather continues to warm, there much to do! Some late March/April HIV Prevention/Treatments Events:

🍏 On March 5, AIDS Foundation of Chicago sponsored "On the Cutting Edge: A briefing by top AIDS Researchers." Keynote speaker was Dr. David Ho of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York. In 1996, Ho was TIME's Man of the Year for his work on Protease Inhibitors.

🍏 Imani Umoja, Swahili for Faith In Unity discussion group meets every 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month at 5401 S. Wentworth Ave from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For further details, please call Preston, Workshop Coordinator at (773) 907-8993 or pager (773) 257-2222. Pager # 16703.

🍏 Harambe Jahard, Swahili for Working Together To Do Good! discussion group meets every 3rd Wednesday from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the OPALGA Office, 1145 Westgate in Oak Park. Call Preston, Workshop Coordinator at (708) 445-2584.

🍏 On March 27-28, Test Positive Aware Network sponsors THRIVE! 1998—HIV Resources Expo. Chicago's second largest treatment issues fair. More than 50 exhibitor's booths ranging from pharmaceutical companies to peer resources. Keynote speakers will include HIV researcher Dr. Anthony Japour and Moises Agostino of the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC). UIC Student Union, 828 South Wolcott, 11am-6pm.

🍏 On April 3-4, Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays present their 5th Anniversary Celebration and Unity Conference. There will be breakout discussion on a multitude of topics including HIV treatments & prevention issues. Holiday Inn, 300 E. Ohio St.; (312) 409-4917.

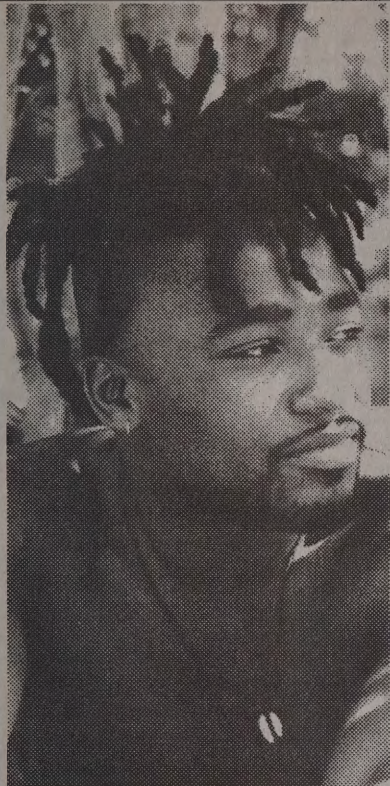


Photo By: Israel Wright

ADODI National Summer Retreat Unchained Fire

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Brothers we invite you to experience the power and beauty of men at our annual weekend retreat. This gathering of men who love men is a life changing event. The retreat is an excellent opportunity for spiritual exploration and brotherhood building. We gather from across the country to form a village of men that is concerned about physical, emotional and spiritual wholeness. Come celebrate our beauty, creativity, intelligence and power.

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ADODI, is the plural of **ADO**, a Yoruba word that describes a man who loves another man. More than just a description of partners, in Africa, the **ADODI** of the tribe were revered as shamans, sages and leaders.

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CALENDAR

Wed., March 25

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater commemorates 40th anniv. with six performances under auspices of Performing Arts Chicago—with 4 premieres! Thru Mar 29, \$16-46. Tix (312) 902-1500; info (773) 722-5463. Auditorium Theatre.

Angela Davis at Afrocentric Books The famed Af-Am radical/revolutionary prof & writer recently came out: come out to hear her. 5:30-7:30pm, admission only w/ purchased copy of her new book, *Blues Legacy...* 333 S State. (312) 939-1956.

GAMBA ("warrior") support group facilitated by Charles Nelson under BROTHERS Community Awareness Network (Brothers CAN) 2nd & 4th Weds., Minority Outreach Intervention 1255 S Wabash. (773) 752-7867.

Howard Brown Health Center & TPAN launch national Anemia Awareness Week campaign to raise understanding of HIV-related anemia w/ kick-off seminar featuring Dr Richard Elion of Geo. Washington Univ, discussing managing debilitating anemia & appropriate treatments. 7-8:30p @ The Westin, 909 N Michigan Ave. HBHC offers free hemoglobin testing Mar 23-27 (call for schedule). TPAN offers free hemoglobin testing @ Thrive 1998 forum. Anemia Awareness Week info 1-888-357-8993. Campaign in partnership w/ Natl. Minority AIDS Council, Title II Community AIDS Natl. Network, supported by an unrestricted grant from Ortho Biotech.

Ill. Federation for Human Rights Gay Rights Lobby Day at State Capitol Lesbians, gays, bis & trans descend on Springfield by bus, van & carpool from around Illinois, 10am-4pm. Info/reservs (773) 477-7173.

Imani Umoja discussion group for gay & bi brothers of color meets 2nd & 4th Wednesdays—feeling & healing the spirit during Black History Month & all year 'round! At Sinai Family Health Centers, Grand blvd, Plaza, 5401 S Wentworth. (773) 907-8993.

Malcolm X College Career Expo & Health Fair '98—over 100 reps filling 500+ job openings @ companies from Avis, the City of Chicago, & Jewel/Osco to Walgreens, UPS, & United Airlines. 10a-10p, free, informal. 1900 W Van Buren. Info Anthony Owens (312) 850-7035 or (312) 850-7078.

Team Chicago benefit with

Women in the Director's Chair Film Fest ... See March 27-29 listings.

"Spirit"—an evening of music & dance with local lesbian performers, incl River North Dance Co, Chicago Gay Men's chorus, Gay-Co, LUNACY!, Cissy Conner & Lex McCauley. Cabaret reception following in 9th fl Winter Garden, all to support trip to Gay Games 98 in Amsterdam. 7pm, Harold Washington Library Auditorium, (312) 409-6039.

Unabridged Bookstore New Town Writers Open Reading/Open Mic, 7:30pm. All genres, 10" max. 3251 N Broadway. (773) 883-9119.

Thursday, March 26

African Film Festival, African Visions IV presented by Columbia College Chicago features "Independent Visions" thru Mar 29, with new "Screen Griots" cinematic storytellers, film screenings, symposia, workshops, an African marketplace, children/family programming & encore screenings Apr 3-4. \$3 (312) 344-7170.



Wed., March 25, Angela Davis at Afrocentric.

AIDS Foundation of Chicago sponsors "Safe Start: A Harm Reduction Housing Program" about helping Chicago's active substance users, incl HIV+ folks. 9:30a-11:30p. @ AFC, 411 S Wells, Suite 200. Info Roman Buenrostro (312) 922-2322.

Berlin Boys' Nite, DJ Dion, GoGo boys. 954 WBELmont.

Chicago Historical Society "Black Women in the Media Arts" incl screening of documentary *Comrade Sister...Voices of Women of the Black Panther Party*, & panel discussion of the interplay of history & social issues thru film & video. BPP member & film dir Phyllis Jackson intro, Akua Njeri (widow of BPP leader Fred Hampton) shares memories, historian Tracey Matthews moderates. 6:30p, \$5 (\$3 members), refreshments incl., pls RSVP. @ Clark & North. Info (312) 642-4600.

Club inta presents "An Intimate Affair," the women's place to meet and greet—cuz girls just wanna have fun! Music by Chicago's hottest DJ, lavish buffet, private rooms available to rent, drink specials, valet pkg. Thursdays 8pm-Until. 308 W Erie. Info (312) 664-6595.

Columbia College Chicago "African Visions IV—Independent Visions" 1998 African Film Festival features films by Bruce Brown, Ayoka Chenzira, Chriss Williams, Craig Ross Jr, Darryl Lemont Wharton & Joe Brewster. Thru Mar 29. Info (312) 344-7286 or -7170.

Girbar Thurs Meltdown, \$1 drafts, DJ Jim Lewis, no cover. **The Vix** "Bid Whist at Vix" begins 8pm, no cover. 2814 N Halsted. (773) 529-3999.



Tuesday, March 31, Coretta Scott King at Lambda.

Women & Children First presents Rosario Ferre (author of Nat'l Book Award finalist *The House on the Lagoon*); 5233 N Clark. (773) 769-9299.

Friday, March 27

Berlin Cosmix Pansexual Fri Dance Party, DJ Haus.

CineStory non-profit screenwriter's conservatory presents a Chicago debut, free public screening of *The Baby Dance*, starring Laura Dern & Stockard Channing (co-produced by Jodie Foster's EGG Pictures & Showtime). Discussion with the writer/director & the producer follows. 1p. @ Sony Fine Arts Theatre, 418 S Michigan.

fusion Dreamland—dance yourself awake! with SUPERSTAR

Thelma Houston, & DJ Mark Vallesse, VJ Eddie Janett, lights Ken-e. Doors open 10pm, \$10 w/ invite or Ticketmaster (312) 559-1212, \$15 @ door. 3631 N Halsted. (773) 975-6622. Partial proceeds benefit Stephen Brahill Foundation.

Kindred Hearts Friday Nights "Celebration of Spirit" & healing & play, with Anita. 7:30pm. 2214 Ridge, Evanston, Ill. (847) 604-0913. All women welcome

Nawal El Saadawi, MD (internationally known Arab feminist, writer & anti-clitoridectomy activist, UIC Scholar-in-Residence thru Apr), Louise Cankar (UIC visiting lecturer in sociology) & Norma Moruzzi (asst. prof of women's studies) discuss "Middle Eastern Women." 7p, Arab-American

THRIVE! 1998 HIV Resource Expo 2nd annual HIV treatment issues & resources forum, w/ 50+ exhibitor booths (pharmaceuticals, health care pros, alternative therapy practitioners, community-based orgs. & peer resources), featuring presentations by noted HIV researcher Dr. Anthony Japour & Moises

Agosto of the Natl. Minority AIDS Council & symposia (e.g., "HIV 101").. Free BIA, hemoglobin testing, free massage, childcare shuttle to/from UIC, plus community roundtables, Positive Living workshops. HIV+ persons & PWAs encouraged to attend, along with healthcare pros & med students (Fri sessions more basic, Sat sessions advanced). 11a-6p today & Sat, free. UIC Chicago Illini Union, 828 S Wolcott. Info/schedule, call TPAN (773) 404-8726.

Women in the Director's Chair 17th Annual Film & Video Festival; Tonight, "A Tribute to the National Film Board of Canada" 4 new films, 6 & 8pm, Film Center @ SAI, Columbus & Jackson. (773) 281-4988.

Saturday, March 28

Berlin Sonic Sats. DJ Dion. 954 WBELmont. (773) 348-4975.

Executive Sweet "We're Springin' Back!" Hosted by Pat & Vera, music by Ron Carroll, eateries by Chef Lamont; special "Find-a-Matching-Number" raffle! 9p-3a, \$10 (id reqd), attire: colorful & sexy. @ Local 705 Auditorium, 330 S Marshall (behind Amoco @ Van Buren/Marshfield, free pkg.)

Harriet Tubman Place Pathfinders offers tonz of cool ops for GLBT or questioning people: fun, support groups, anonymous HIV testing, counselling, good eats/reads/folks/music (our or yours!), condoms... ALL FREE! All welcome; call for HIV testing dates (773) 626-1443. Drop-in center & groups Sats. 1p-3p (doors open 12:30p), 5903 W Fulton, #1W.

Howard Brown Health Center Women's Health Fair, 9a-3p today, offers a host of free services, incl blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, STD screenings; chiropractic assessments, nutrition counselling, massage therapy, tai chi classes, HIV testing & counseling. Make pap smears & breast self-exams a part of your regular health routine! Gynecological & other health services available by appointment on sliding-fee basis; call for appt/info (773) 388-8683. 4025 N Sheridan.

National Coalition for Lesbian Mothers & Children Discussion/Social Group Saturdays (708) 686-7369.

Rainbow Room Dance Saturdays, \$2 cover.

Windy City Performing Arts Roar!—Music of the 1920's features the Windy City Gay Chorus & Indianapolis Men's Choir, plus Windy City Slickers & Indy-Visible. Tonight 8p & Sun 3p, \$16-20. @ Athenaeum Theatre, (773) 404-9242.

Women in the Director's Chair 17th Annual Film & Video Festival; Tonight, "Comrade Sisters: Black Women in 'The Revolution'" (excerpts) screening & discussion—panelists incl former Black Panthers, US, UK & Cuba filmmakers (reception follows), & Sienna McLean's *Still Revolutionaries*, & Gloria Rolando's *The Eyes of the Rainbow* (excerpts), 3pm, DuSable Museum, 740 E 56th

Pl. ALSO "Media Girls" youth video screening/all-girl panel discussion re Chicago media literacy, Lorna Ann Johnson's *My Wolverine*, 4pm; AND "Rebel Grrrls and Riot Grrrmandas: New Lesbian Work Pt II" 5 flicks, incl Chi-connected Lucy Thane's *She's Real*, *Worse Than Queer*, Mary Patten's *Riot Grrrmandas!!!* A Vizzozine, & Yvonne Welbon's trailer for *Ruth Ellis*, sev. directors will attend, 10p, The Hothouse, 31 E Balbo. (773) 281-4988.

Sunday, March 29

AIDS Living Remembrance Project supports creation of a Chicago garden to honor those who have died, those living with HIV/AIDS & those who've responded to the crisis. 3-6p, donations \$25+ @ DuSable Museum, 740 E 56th Pl. Info (773) 288-5076.

Berlin Jazzy funk 4 dancing, boardgames for those who wanna play. 954 WBELmont.

Cell Block Leather United hosts beer bust 5-9p, special buffet & prizes, holding cell opens 6p, DJ Dominic. 3702 N Halsted.

Heartland Cafe "Ellen Plays Well With Others" songwriter series begins, last Sundays 7-10p, tonite featuring Ellen Rosner, & others. 7000 N Glenwood. (773) 465-8005.

Rainbow Families Single Parents Group meets (630) 585-3920.

Women in the Director's Chair 17th Annual Film & Video Festival; Tonight, Meredith Holch's lesbo drag nite flick, *I Got the Red*, 2pm, AND "Media Girls" youth video screening & panel discussion on Chi media literacy, 4pm—incl Jacqueline Etienne's *How Boys Treat Girls* & Shuntaye Moore's *Last Summer Fight*, 4pm The Hothouse, 31 E Balbo. Info/full schedule (773) 281-4988.

Monday, March 30

Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center Groups for sexual minority youth: Gay-Les-Bi support group meets 7-9pm Mondays at Aunt Martha's YSC, 4343 Lincoln Highway, Suite 340, Matteson. Info, Gloria Piette (708) 747-2708, x 573.

DuPage QYC (Questioning Youth Center) gay/bi/trans teen drop-ins (14-18 yrs) Mondays 6:30p-17 W Maple, Hinsdale, Ill. (630) 415-2053.

GIRLS: Goddesses in Real Life Sizes support group for large-sized lesbians. Mondays. Info (630) 739-3178.

GLBVA joins in Daley Plaza Salute to Women Veterans. Noon, (773) 752-0058.

Roscoe's Manic 80s Mons: VJ Bobby Marley, DJ Kevy-B.

School of the Art Institute "Lesbian Identity Politics & Contemporary voices" painter Deborah Kass. 6pm, \$5 (\$3 sr/st/staff). 280 S Columbus. (312) 443-3711.

WTTW-Channel 11 presents "No Safe Place: Violence Against Women" docum., 11pm.

Tuesday, March 31

Berlin Testosterone Tues, Ralph

rosario spins, GoGo boys. 954 W. Belmont, (773) 348-4975.
GLSEN/Chicago meets 7pm; panel of educ. administrators--incl Joyce Jenner of Whitney Young HS, Cydney Fields, Wesley Baumann--will address topic, "It's a Matter of Principals... Where do they stand on the issues facing GLBT students & teachers?" @ Conrad Sulzer Library, 4455 N Lincoln. Info (773) 792-4140.

Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund 25th Anniversary Luncheon & Bon Foster Memorial Civil Rights Lecture delivered by Coretta Scott King. Honorary co-chairs Maggie Daley & Rev Dr Kenneth B Smith convene this historic celebration, representing a host committee with members from Jackie Anderson to Israel Wright (& a fair few community leaders in between!). The "Do" also marks the 5th anniversary of the Midwest Lambda office, led by Patricia Logue, Esq. Noon (doors open 11:30a), \$50&up. Palmer House, 17 E Monroe. (312) 663-4413 x29.

Stonewall Association Support Group meets Tuesdays, Naperville, (630) 585-3827
WBEZRadio 91.5fm presents 9 Chicago authors in the live performance of "A Sense of Belonging: Stories about Community" (to be broadcast Sun, Apr 12, 9p), includes Lambda's own Yvonne Zipter; 7:30p, \$10 (\$8 sr/st/members). @ Hyde Park's Court Theater, 5535 S Ellis; (773) 753-4472.

Wed., April 1

Berlin Women's Obsession, 1st/3rd Weds. 954 W Belmont.
Chicago Public Library "Remembering Harold" exhibition honoring late Mayor Washington opens today in Harold Washington Exhibit Hall, 9th fl. Thru Mar 30, 1999. Harold Washington Library, 400 S State. Info (312) 747-4875.

Horizons Community Services hosts Chicago's biggest rummage sale! Collecting merchandise donations all month long in a storefront (site to be announced), then the huge blowout sale's scheduled for 1st weekend in May! Info Rick Karlin (773) (472-6469) x257.

UIC "Out in the Workplace" panel discussion with Ameritech, ComEd, Horizons, Northern Trust & Northwestern Memorial Hospital reps. 7-9p, all welcome. @ Ann Sather's, Sun Rm on 2nd fl, 929 W Belmont. Sponsored by Chancellor's Comm. on Status of LGB Issues & Office of Career Services, Univ. of Ill at Chi. Info Tim Murphy (312) 996-3595.

Thursday, April 2

Bi, Gay, Lesbian Law Assoc. of DePaul University hosts annual wine & cheese reception for lesbian/gay legal community: supportive lesbian/gay attys, judges, law profs/students & others welcome to socialize & share legal insights. 4-7p, free. @ DePaul Club, 1 E Jackson.

Chicago Improv Festival 1st-ever gathering of the tribes o'

comedy features 27 of the funniest improv ensembles from Chi & around the US, thru Apr 5. Tonight, Whitney Houston (lesbian-themed laugh revue), NOMENIL (gay viewpoint camp & hyperrealism, all high potential), JANE (all-women "riot grrls of comedy). 7:30p, \$10 (festival pass \$75). @ Annoyance Theatre, 3747 N Clark. Tix (312) 559-1212.

Club inta presents "An Intimate Affair," for lesbians, 308 W Erie. Info (312) 664-6595.

Columbia College Chicago Paul Robeson Memorial film Festival, 5 Thurs eves in April. Kicks off tonight w/ panel discussion, incl Susan Robeson, filmmaker/author & PR's granddaughter. 5p, free. @ Auditorium, Washington Library Center, 400 S State. Info/schedule (312) 344-7286 or -7170.

Friday, April 3

Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays UNITY IV: Renaissance & Renewal: Celebrating Ourselves Conference celebrates 5 years of Af-Am lesbian/gaytrans community-building. Keynote speakers Dr. Marjorie Hill (former lesbian liaison to NYC Mayor David Dinkins) and international AIDS activist Phil Wilson (co-founder of the Nat'l Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum); also men's & women's institutes, people of color poetry slam, workshops on topics from political activism to parenting, leather to queer identity, spirituality to health; fine arts exhibit, black film forum, "The Market." TODAY'S

EVENTS: Opening Plenary 1p. Three concurrent Institutes 2-5p: 1) For Women, "Sister Girl: Can We Talk? From the Political to the Personal" offers 3hrs of interactive talkback & sister acts about issues concerning lesbian visibility in the community, relationships that work, that don't that we want, & desires, wishes that we need; learn strategies & techniques on putting all the pieces together for social, spiritual & sexual (????)selves; 2) For Men "Sex, Spirit & Self," exploring men's sexuality in terms of being, self-identification, group i.d. & spirituality, thru lecturettes, lg & sm group activities, participants examine social, political & spiritual aspects of sexuality w/ emphasis on being same-gender-loving men of African descent; 3) For Youth, "I'm Coming Out.....!" very interactive institute targets youth 18-25 yrs of age, addresses coming out issues, identity awareness, ways to love while applying safer-sex techniques. Welcome reception 5-7p features remarks by poet Cheryl Clarke, plus a "Celebration of Ourselves" performance showcase--meet & greet, then on to The Vix for the 9p People of Color Poetry Slam! Conf. thru Apr 4, culminating in the CBLG Gala Black Tie 5th Yr. Anniversary Dinner Dance, 6:30p onward Sat. night (after-party 10p). All at the Holiday Inn Chicago City Centre, 300 E Ohio. CBLG hotline (312) 409-

4917; http://members.aol.com/CBLGCIV/cblguc1.html.

Girlbar Salsa 1st & 3rd Fridays. DJ Sandy, (773) 871-4210.

MACT-Chicago (Men of All Colors Together) meets 7:30p @ Ann Sather's, 929 W Belmont. Info (312) 409-6916.

The Vix & CBLG co-host The People of Color Poetry Slam, a fundraiser to benefit Unity Conf. IV. Slammers have 3 mins to perform yr most vibin', jammin', all-out-slammin' work; top six compete in rnd 2 for title King/Queen Slammer, \$300 in cash prizes (3 spots)! Contest judges: lesbian poet Cheryl Clarke, Ric Ricard (The Mailbox) & Byron Stewart (A Real Read); hosted by CC Carter; A Real Read, Innervation perform. 9-11p; slammer check-in 8:45p SHARP; after-set 11:30p-1a; \$5 @ door, 2-drink min. 2814 N Halsted. Co-sponsored by Affinity & Literary Exchange; BLACKLINES/NIGHTLINES.

Saturday, April 4

Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays UNITY IV: Renaissance & Renewal: Celebrating Ourselves Reg. begins 8a, continental breakfast 8a. TODAY'S **EVENTS** incl keynote speakers Dr. Marjorie Hill (former lesbian liaison to NYC Mayor David Dinkins) 9a; AND international AIDS activist Phil Wilson (co-founder of the Nat'l Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum) over lunch 11:45a. ALSO 3 concurrent workshops @ 9:45a, 1p & 2:45p on topics from political activism to parenting, leather to queer identity, spirituality to health; plus fine arts exhibit, black film forum, "The Market." Conf. culminates tonight in the CBLG Gala Black Tie 5th Yr. Anniversary Dinner Dance, 6:30p onward (gala reception 6:30p, banquet & gala 8p, afterparty 10p). All at the Holiday Inn Chicago City Centre, 300 E Ohio. CBLG hotline (312) 409-4917; or go to http://members.aol.com/CBLGCIV/cblguc1.html. Sponsored in part by Crossroads Fund of Chicago & United Airlines.

Columbia College Chicago CCC Chicago Jazz Ensemble performs re-created "Sketches of Spain, Ellington, Kenton & Basie. 8p. Getz Theater, 62 E 11th St. Info (312) 344-6180.

Harriet Tubman Place Pathfinders offers tonz of cool ops for GLBT or questioning people: (773) 626-1443. Drop-in center & groups Sats. 1p-3p 5903 W Fulton, #1W.

Newberry Library Weekend of Mystery presents gay mystery authors Fred Hunter, Mark Richard Zubro & others to meet & greet who-dunnit-fans at a mystery authors reception, 10:30a-1:30p, \$15 (\$10 associates) (312) 255-3510.

P-FLAG Central Region Conference Chicago-area Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays & UIC Office of Gay Lesbian & Bisexual Concerns co-host the first conference, "Renewing & Redeeming Society." Features keynote by Rev Dr Mel White, GLSEN



Friday, March 27, Thelma Houston at Fusion.

panel on state of schools, Dr Randi Etner on transsexualism, Dr Chris Horvath on "why is my child gay?" Plus workshops, luncheon, entertainment & more. 8a-4:45p, 828 S Wolcott. Info (847) 272-3791.

Symphony Center Ameritech Jazz @ Symphony Center, w/ Ravinia Festival coop: tonight, Ramsey Lewis & Jonathan Butler. Tix (312) 294-3000. 220 S Michigan.

Windy City Cycling Club hosts New Members Party, 6p, 3016 N Hoyne. (312) 458-9841

Women's Festival of the Arts Ibeji International & Chi Park Distr co-sponsor this multi-age, multi-cultural fest, featuring a mix of workshops, panel discussions & art demos educating the mind, body, spirit. Street Level Prods will be on-site helping non-profits & small businesses produce Cable Access public service announcements. Also youth fashion show, Mother & Daughter Rites of Passage, self-massage, multi-cultural storytelling & movies from CCC's Black film Festival (on Sun). Marketplace includes art, crafts & clothing. 9a-5p today, Sun 10a-3p, free. @ Washington Park Field House, 5541 S Martin Luther King Dr. Info (773) 761-7306.

Sunday, April 5

Chicago Cultural Center announces Gallery 37's Summer Downtown Prog, for Chicago youth aged 14-21. Potential job training in the arts prog participants MUST attend one application session, 10a-2p today @ CCC, 78 E Washington, & other weekend dates in various Loop locations thru May 3. Info (312) 744-8925.

Chicago Improv Festival 1st-ever gathering of the tribes o' comedy features 27 of the funniest improv ensembles from Chi & around the US, thru Apr 5. Tonight, 7p show The Have Nots!, Moe Green's Other Eye, Black Comedy Workshop, \$10. AND 9p show Jeff Garlin, \$10. @ Annoyance Theatre, 3747 N Clark. Tix (312) 559-1212. Free Fest Event: Improv Jam, 8 Degrees Below Normal hosts @ the Annoyance Theatre, 10p. Info (773) 862-5082.

The Vix Talents presents a Jazz Comedy Cabaret featuring vocalist Barbara Leshoure & internationally known comedienne Lolee Marimba (aka

"Vanna"); buffet, cash bar. 5-9p, \$20 (reservs needed). 2814 N Halsted. Talents info (773) 752-4217 or 363-6625.

WACT (Womyn of All Colors/Cultures Together) Brunch #62 gets womyn together! Details/directions/info (773) 784-8922 or (773) 384-2345.

WTTW-Channel 11 PBS presents "Firing Line Special Debate: 'Resolved: African Americans Are Best Served by the Republican Party'" 2p.

Monday, April 6

Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center Groups for sexual minority youth: Gay-Les-Bi support group meets 7-9pm Mondays at 4343 Lincoln Highway, Suite 340, Matteson. (708) 747-2708, x 573.

Berlin Antidote--A Relaxed Affair. 954 W. Belmont.

Tuesday, April 7

Berlin Testosterone Tues, Ralphie Rosario spins, GoGo boys.

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless benefit premiere of Academy-Award-winner Michael Moore's new film, *The Big One*; Q&A w/ Moore & Studs Terkel follows. 7:30p, \$20. @ Music Box Theatre, 3733 N Southport. (312) 435-4538.

Chicago Cultural Center "Global Threads: Guardian Angels H.S. Choir of South Africa & the Windsor H.S. Band"--Zulu tradition meets John Bull horns?! 11a, free. Preston Bradley Hall, CCC, 78 E Washington. (312) 744-1430.

Lakeside Pride Freedom Band (formerly known as Chicago Lesbian & Gay Marching Band) welcomes new members in preparation for marching in the Jun Pride Parade. Rehearsal tonight 7-9p @ People's Church UCC, 941 W Lawrence. Info (773) 434-6099.

Wednesday, April 8

Evanston Health Dept. Spring Health & Wellness Event celebrates Natl. Public Health Week. (847) 866-2952.

Horizons Community Services fun new series of workshops includes "Goin' to the Chapel"--a one-day overview on basics of same-sex "weddings &/or reception planning, conducted by Frank Andanapolous Wed. Apr. 8, 7-9pm, registration \$20 indiv/\$25 couple. Lambda's own Gregg Shapiro leads a six-week "Gay Poets Society" workshop beginning Wed. Apr. 29, 7-9pm, w/ optional participation in public performance during Pride Month, \$50. 961 W Montana. (773) 472-6469.

Imani Umoja for gay & bi brothers of color meets 2nd & 4th Wednesdays; 5401 S Wentworth. Info Preston Shumaker. (773) 477-8993.

Performing Arts Presents Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Co. April 8-9 at Arle Crown; (773) PAC-LINE.

Women & Children First presents Mandy Sayer, daughter of a jazz drummer, whose new

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memoir, *Dreamtime Alice*, takes this dad-daughter duo from Australia to Manhattan & New Orleans, performing and learning about finding one's own voice. 7:30pm. (773) 769-9299.

Thursday, April 9

Affinity black lesbian/bi women's discussion group meets 2nd Thursdays 7-8:30pm. At Mother Drexel Hall, lower level (enter off 61st St pkg lot), 6042 S Indiana. Info, topic (312) 409-7609.

Color Triangle Creed/Manifesto Action Planning Group meets 6p., @ 510 N Peshtigo Ct, Rsvp (312) 744-1814.

Columbia College Paul Robeson Film Festival, "Paul Robeson Citywide Centennial Celebration"—eat w/ Vernon Jarrett, Dr Margaret Burroughs, Studs Terkel & others @ So. Shore Cultural, 7059 So. Shore Dr. 7:30-10p. (312) 747-2536.

Friday, April 10

BB King, Millie Jackson & Bobby Blue Bland. Tonight & Sat. Star Plaza. (312) 559-1212.

UIC Mixed Fruits Older lesbianig social group meets for 5:30p dinner; (773) 334-8967 or email fruits@uic.edu.

Saturday, April 11

Symphony Center Ameritech Jazz @ Symphony Center, w/ Ravinia Festival coop: tonite, Joan Baez w/ Dar Williams & Richard Shindell. Tix (312) 294-3000. 220 S Michigan.

Monday, April 13

Symphony Center Ameritech Jazz @ Symphony Center, w/ Ravinia Festival coop: tonite, Boys' Choir of Harlem. Tix (312) 294-3000. 220 S Michigan.

Tuesday, April 14

Women & Children First, Barbara's Bookstores & the Chicago Public Library present acclaimed lesbian novelist Dorothy Allison (her *Bastard Out of Carolina* was nominated for the Nat'l Book Award) reading from her eagerly anticipated 2nd novel, *Cavedweller*. A don't-miss op. Doors open 6:15pm; rdg. at 7pm. Harold Washington Library, Congress & State. Info (773) 769-9299.

Wednesday, April 15

Berlin Women's Obsession.

Chicago Ensemble & River-Oak Arts presents 4th & final co-op lecture-demo in series on Music & Literature: "Jazz & Poetry." Reception follows. 7:30pm, \$10 (\$8 RO & CE members). Cheney Mansion, 220 N Euclid, Oak Park. ALSO Sun., Apr. 19, 2:30pm, at Evanston Congregational Church, 1417 Hinman, Evanston. Info/tix (708) 524-8725.

Columbia College Chicago Paul Robeson Memorial Film Festival, "Celebrate Renaissance Men: Harold Washington & Paul Robeson" w/ keynote speaker Congressman Danny Davis, & Chi Children's Choir, noon-2p, free. Harold Washington Library 400 S State. Info/schedule (312) 344-7114.

International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission House Party hosted in Chicago; (415) 255-8680.

UIC "Race, Sexuality & Homophobia" panel discussion moderated by Renae Ogletree, with mayoral lesbianigaytrans liaison Mary Morten, Yvette Cardona of *Las Amigas Latinas* & WACT, plus a representative of Association of Latino Men in Action. 3-4:30p. @ Univ. of Ill. Chicago, in Chicago Circle Center, rms 509/510, 750 S Halsted, by Chancellor's Comm. on Status of LGB Issues.

WTTW-Channel 11 PBS airs *In the Life*, lesbianigay video magazine: Airtime 11pm.

Friday, April 17

14th Chicago Latino Film Festival (312) 431-1330.

Project VIDA & Midwest Hispanic AIDS Coalition host major joint fundraiser; (773) 522-4570.

Saturday, April 18

Affinity 40 Plus women's group meets 3rd Saturdays, 4-6pm. (773) 667-7606.

GLSEN (Gay Lesbian & Straight Education Network) GLSEN/Chicago Youth Summit free all-day conference for youth activists at DePaul University. Info Toni (773) 769-9009.

Old Town School of Folk Music Reggion "The Hooper" McLaughlin's History of TAP! with Ernest Brown, Cas Dannsa, Olivia Doeringsfeld & Annette Morris. 7pm, \$15 (\$13 members, \$11 sr/kids). 909 W Armitage. (773) 525-7793.

Univ. of Chicago Center for Gender Studies Sawyer Seminar on Sexual Identities & Identity Politics sponsors day-long symposium, (773) 702-8356.

Sunday, April 19

Horizons "Commitment to Love" 5th same-sex wedding expo! 4-7p, sugg donation \$3 (\$5 couple) benefits Horizons, @ Ann Sather's, 929 W Belmont. (773) 472-6469 x257.

Monday, April 20

Heavy Diva Productions & Clubhouse LTD 6-yr Gala Anniversary Celebration of Otis Mack, Heavy Diva; show features national kings & queens from around the country. 10p-4a, \$10 cover. @ Convent, 1529 W Armitage. Info (773) 533-8744. (Souvenir book ads must be pre-paid by Mar 30; call for details.)

Thursday, April 23

Park West Ziggy Marley & the Melody Makers; (312) 559-1212.

Saturday, April 25

ALMA (Assoc. of Latin Men for Action) *Noche de Gala V*, 5th gala dinner fundraiser for lesbian, gay and bisexual latino/as & friends. Join in to honor Juanita Crespo & Robert Castillo & to recognize EN LA VIDA for contributions to our community! 7p, \$30 (\$25 members). @ Ann Sather's Restaurant, 929 W Belmont. Tix on sale at Gay Mart, 3457 N Halsted. Info (773) 918-5067.

Color Triangle III A Different Look at Racism in Our Community. 10a-2p. Egan Urban Center, 243 S Wabash, 9th fl. Pls RSVP/info (773) 973-3999.

Gerber/Hart Library Spring Fundraiser & Auction, 6:30-9p. @ Spin, 800 W Belmont. Info (773) 478-6765.

Sunday, April 26

Centre East presents folk legends ODETTA & Tom Paxton, w/ Michael Johnathon, part of the Acoustic Rainbow Tour, one night only, 8p, \$33. (847) 673-6300.

Logan Square Gay Lesbian Bisexual & Trans Neighbors host 1st spaghetti dinner/social. 4-6p, sugg donation \$5. @ Grace United Methodist Church of Logan Square, 3325 W Wrightwood. Info Robert or John (773) 342-0327.

Tuesday, April 28

All Jokes Aside Comedy Club Gay Pride Night, featuring Coco Monique & Tony Scofield, host Geo. Wilborn, w/ portion of proceeds benefitting Stop AIDS. 7p sharp, \$13. 1000 S Wabash. Tix/rsvp John Fleming jr (312) 654-2957 or Jamoeo Black (773) 643-0245.

Theatre

Opening Nights
April 1: Ain't Misbehavin'
The Fats Waller Musical, Drury Lane, (708) 422-0042.

April 10: Let Met Live In a
surreal 1932 Georgia prison, lives and crimes of eight black men in cellblock 7 tell the story of injustice and tragedy in African American experience. Co-production with Onyx Th Ensemble, at the Goodman thru May 10. (312) 443-3800.

April 18: Paul Robeson
Play with music in observance of Robeson's 100th birthday. Avery Brooks stars. One performance only 8pm. New Regal, 1645 E. 79th St. Special tix on sale now, include reception at ETA Sq. (773) 752-3955.

June 16: Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk Tix on sale now for the ground breaking Tony winner ensemble musical based on an idea of Savion Glover and George C. Wolfe. Rhythms and energies of tap celebrate the history of the beat with text, music, songs, poetry. Thru July 7, Schubert, Tix on sale; Ticketmaster.

In Performance
Bent Martin Sherman's story of gay barfly and pusher Max, scooped from Berlin's nightlife to Dachau. (773) 935-6860.

Blues for an Alabama Sky by Pearl Cleage. Drama of four friends at the end of Harlem's Renaissance and the beginning of the Great Depression. Goodman (312) 443-3800.

Chicago's Golden Soul a musical celebration of the producers, songwriters and artists who propelled Chicago 60s-70s soul music and the recording industry here into national fame. Including: Jerry Butler, Curtis Mayfield, Gene Chandler, The Impressions, Betty Everett, Barbara Aklin, Etta James and a special tribute to The Chi-Lites. Stars John Crowley, Melvin Abston, Lyle Miller, David Simmons, Chester Gregory, Ricky Sith, Arama Brown, Opal Staples and LaVondra Hinton. Black Ensemble Th, (773) 769-4451.

Dead of Night: The Execution of Fred Hampton based on controversial 1969 police raid resulting in the death of Black Panther leader Hampton. For Black History Month. Thru Apr 5 Pegasus Players (773) 878-9761.

Echoes of the Past
March 25: Alvin Alley
American Dance Theater 40th Anniversary 4 premieres, plus revivals & favorites, thru Mar 29, Auditorium Th (312) 902-1500.



Openly gay, openly HIV-positive dancer/choreographer Bill T. Jones brings the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company back to town April 8-9 for 'We Set Out Early ... Visibility Was Poor.' Call (773) PAC-LINE.

Maxine Maxwell as African and African-American heroines Sojourner Truth; 15 yr old Elizabeth Eckford (who integrated Little Rock's schools); Winnie Mandela; Ida B. Wells; and Henrietta King. Noon, Northern Indiana Arts Assn, Munster. (219) 836-1839.

For Colored Girls who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf Ntozake Shange's meditation on trial and triumph for African American women, featuring the women of Samana. South Shore Cultural Center, thru Mar 29 (312) 747-2580.

Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery A Black girl in the 60s South orphaned and raised by the non-traditional older women in the community. At the tender age of 12, she begins her journey to womanhood guided by their wisdom and love. Written by Shay Youngblood, directed by Lisa Duncan, choreographed by Allison Scipilin. Chicago Thtr Co, Parkway Playhouse, 500 E. 67th St. thru April 12 (773) 493-5360.

Dance
March 25: Alvin Alley
American Dance Theater 40th Anniversary 4 premieres, plus revivals & favorites, thru Mar 29, Auditorium Th (312) 902-1500.

Dead of Night: The Execution of Fred Hampton based on controversial 1969 police raid resulting in the death of Black Panther leader Hampton. For Black History Month. Thru Apr 5 Pegasus Players (773) 878-9761.

Echoes of the Past
March 25: Alvin Alley
American Dance Theater 40th Anniversary 4 premieres, plus revivals & favorites, thru Mar 29, Auditorium Th (312) 902-1500.

April 2: Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago *Fat Tuesday and All That Jazz* featuring live music by the Olympia Brass Band, Auditorium, thru April 10. (773) 602-1135.

April 8: Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Co., *We Set Out Early... Visibility Was Poor*, Arie Crown, thru April 9, only. (773) 722-5463.

April 14: Hubbard Street Dance 17 performances of four programs including premieres, (312) 663-0853.

May 4: Traffic, Dance/Jazz Summit, improvisational music and dance showcasing saxophone great Von Greeman and San Francisco dancer/choreographer Robert Henry Johnson. Steppenwolf, (312) 335-1650.

Art

African-American Cultural Center, University of Illinois at Chicago *Chicago Synergized: The Mind's Eye* by Sidney P. Murphy, pipes, chains and branches in sculpture capturing harmony between objects, thru Mar 30, 830 S. Halsted. Free. (312) 996-9549.

The Dusable Museum of African American History *Amistad* (312) 947-0600.

Woman Made Gallery *First International Open*, featuring women from varied cultural backgrounds, thru Mar 27. *Portraits by Women*, all media except installation, performance, Apr 3-24. 1900 S. Prairie. (312) 328-0038.

Yello Gallery Contemporary Art of Ireland Towards a Black Pentecost, 1630N. Milwaukee (773) 235-9731.

National Confab: Personal Reports

by Lester Davis

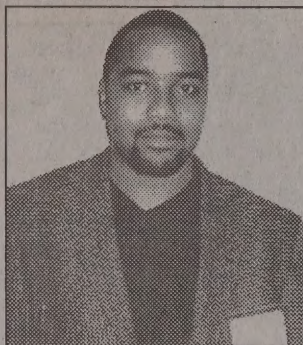
The focus of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum conference February in D.C. affirmed the lives of lesbian and gay men of African descent, building stronger bridges for Black bisexual, transgender and youth in our communities across the country. Their goal this year was quite successful.

The Health and Wellness Institute, formerly the Healthcare and AIDS Institute, that opened the conference on Feb. 12 stressed the importance of preventive health practices in proper health maintenance as well as the application of holistic health and homeopathic medicine in a first-ever multi-topic community discussion session. Robert Penn, Dr. Andrea Sullivan and Beverly Saunders Biddle were keynote speakers for the institute, which left powerful messages ranging from "taking care of ourselves by listening to our bodies" to "homophobia in the healthcare system." The interaction with health officials and agencies,

and gathered information on issues covered during workshops sessions, definitely allowed participants to embrace themselves on AIDS, breast cancer and cervical cancer issues.

The Forum's mission for the new Empowerment Institute Feb. 13—developing better Black lesbian and gay communities throughout a series of sessions on community growth and organizational development—allowed voices to be heard in panel discussions and workshops. A variety of topics about coming-out issues, self-esteem issues and dealing with loss and grief helped bisexuals, transgenders and youth in the community to empower and strengthen themselves. The keynote speakers were U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney, President Clinton's Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Bill Lann Lee, and Dr. Elias Farajaje-Jones.

The Empowerment Institute closed with Dr. Elias Farajaje-Jones, a queer-identified bisexual man, a professor of Cultural



Jubi D. Headley Jr., new Forum executive director.

Studies at the Starr King School of The Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif. His titled message was called "Coming Home." He asked participants at the start of his speech "Are you still in the struggle?" His message was clear and to the point. "Coming out is like coming back on in. Loving ourselves is important, because who can hate us if we hate ourselves. If you think you aren't shit then you will start believing it. If we cannot define ourselves we cannot come home," said Farajaje-Jones. Which means that if we cannot identify with who we are as gays and lesbians by standing up and representing our communities, then how do we expect heterosexuals that don't understand us to respect our

struggle? Farajaje-Jones' message received a standing ovation. It was definitely time to socialize and party following a message that spoke truth about us as a community.

I must commend Carlene Cheatam and Larry Davis, Conference Steering Committee Members and residents of D.C. for providing discount rates and transportation services to D.C.'s hottest gay night clubs. There were scheduled shuttle buses that ran nightly, allowing participants to have a choice to party at either the Bachelor's Mill, Tracks, The Edge, Circle Bar or the Wet. D.C. definitely gave us excellent hospitality!

Saturday, Feb. 14 and Sunday Feb. 15, workshop topics included cultural and spiritual awareness, personal and regional development, dating and relationships. The Annual Awards Banquet hosted by comedian Karen Williams honored the following recipients for their outstanding contributions to our Black, lesbian and gay community: AIDS Service-Frederick Garnett Award, H. Alexander Robinson; Lesbian Service-Mabel Hampton Award, Carlene Cheatam; Literature/Arts-Audre Lorde Award, Barbara Smith; James Baldwin

Turn to next page

Sen. Braun honored by L.A. lesbians

More than 1,000 women came out for the 14th annual L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center's Women's Night '98 March 7. Honored were Ellen DeGeneres, State Rep. Sheila James Kuehl and U.S. Senator Carol Moseley-Braun. Braun was the first recipient of the Women's Night Special Board of Directors Award. "Those of us who have been blessed have a moral obligation and a responsibility and duty to share those blessings with those who have not been so fortunate," Moseley-Braun said. "Our generation has an absolute responsibility to see to it that we give the next generation of Americans no less than we inherited. The last generation gave all of us an expectation of freedom. We have a responsibility to pass on an expectation of equality." Braun faces a tough re-election campaign this fall in Illinois [see March 25 OUTLINES for full election results from the March 17 primary elections].

TWO DAY RENTALS EVERY SUNDAY AND TUESDAY
3452 N. HALSTED 773-871-1810 OPEN DAILY 10AM-10PM

FORUM from 15

Award, E. Lynn Harris; Organization-Harriet Tubman Award, Black Lesbian & Gay Pride Day, Inc.; Political Activism-Bayard Rustin Award, Hon. Sabrina Sojourner; Spirituality-Bishop Carl Bean Spirituality Award, Rev. Rainey Cheeks; Youth Advocate-Joan Fountain Award, Mike Street and Jeni Wright.

Immediately following the awards presentation Jubi D. Headley Jr. was named the new Executive Director of NBLGLF.

The conference ended with a luncheon and a closing session on Sunday afternoon. The closing session included a keynote address by The Lady Chablis, a transgender actress starring in the Clint Eastwood film *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. A final farewell speech was given by outgoing executive Director Keith Boykin. Keith's emotional speech included a suicidal letter from a teenager who needed someone to hear his grievances about being closeted. This youth was crying out for help, because he was so afraid about his parents finding out about him being gay. He asked Keith to write him, but expressed how important discretion was to him. This

moved Keith into tears to see that this young man was struggling with coming-out issues. Keith's message touched the hearts of everyone in the ballroom especially surrounding an issue such as this one, which we often overlook.

This year's conference and theme "Embracing Ourselves, Empowering Our Community" was excellent for Black lesbian and gay communities across the country to absorb the energies, so that we can continue to maintain the struggle as we enter a new millennium.

Hanging out with Jubi D. Headley Jr. the new D.D. or the NBLGLF

by Lester Davis

Six of us were hanging out, the first night of the conference in the lobby of Hyatt Regency-Crystal City in Arlington, Va., in conversation about the conference, when I was formally introduced to Mr. Headley by one of my good friends.

"Lester, this Jubi Headley," said Glenn R. Wright.

I immediately replied, "Hi! Nice to meet you."

I wasn't really thinking much about this individual that Glenn

introduced me to, other than the brother is cool, until Glenn explained who he was. Again my thoughts were, Oh! Okay!!

"He's a volunteer for the NBLGLF, one of the Conference Steering Committee Chairs and a very good friend of mine," said Glenn R. Wright.

I was very impressed by his mannerism, and the fact that Headley knew one of my friends from Chicago, which was cool. But I had no idea knowing he would become the next NBLGLF executive director—until it was a surprise to everyone at the Awards Banquet Feb. 14, when the announcement became official that he was going to be the New Executive Director of NBLGLF. I wanted to talk with this brother about the Forum, so on Feb. 15, I had the privilege of stealing a few minutes of Jubi Headley's busy schedule to ask a few questions.

Davis: "Since you have assumed your new position as Executive Director, what are your visions for the Forum?"

Headley: "I have two primary visions for the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum: First, I want to expand the services by offering to our membership specifically in terms of communications, mail-

ing membership newsletters out and including in them more of the knowledge of our policy decisions. Secondly, work toward engaging the membership in constant communication, so that we are constantly on the same page about what our collective agenda is about."

Davis: "Do you see where you can make any changes?"

Headley: "I would not exactly say changes because Keith has done a fabulous job of engaging people already. I think we can build upon what Keith has done, it's not changes so much, it's additions and augmenting the work that has already been done. I think we can certainly work toward more integrating our agenda with that of the African-American community. They certainly need to know what our concerns are and often at times see that our agendas coincide. I think the Congressional Black Caucus, NAACP and organizations such as that need to have talks and dialogues with the National Black Lesbian and gay Leadership Forum."

Davis: "How can you get more transgender and youth involved with the NBLGLF conference?"

Headley: "I have talked a lot with transgender folks and youth during this conference. I think the primary thing we need to remember is in order to get youth involved: First, you have got to ask them and, secondly, you have to empower them to work with you to show you what to do. We can't make decisions for them. We need to ask them to come in our office and into our homes and ask them what they think needs to be done and listen to that. Work with youth communities and transgender communities across the country and start some kind of dialogue, and figure out what they like to see on the Forum's agenda on their behalf."

I thanked Mr. Headley for his time, shook his hand and wished him well in his future endeavors as new Executive Director of NBLGLF.

Village People Forced to Cancel Jamaica Show

Invited to perform in Negril, Jamaica for a three-day Spring Break extravaganza, one of the several attractions that rallies some 1.8 million people to the island, disco icons Village People were forced to cancel their appearance due to an aggravated injury to lead singer, Ray (The Cop) Simpson's heel. Shortly after Simpson's injury and the cancellation of their performance, Jamaican church leaders expressed concern about the band's popularity among the homosexual community and the illegality of the lifestyle on the island, adding insult to injury.

In order to protect the singer's health, Management for Village People canceled the show on Thursday, March 5 four days prior to Jamaican church leaders going public with their concerns about the appearance. "We want to make it clear that our decision to decline the invitation to play for spring break was due solely to the injury and had nothing to do with the church leaders' recent statements," said Simpson. "We were really looking forward to the event and it's unfortunate that we have been forced to disappoint our fans. But doctor's orders are doctor's orders."

Donna Summer sings in NY for Gay Men's Health Crisis

Donna Summer was expected to perform "An Evening With Donna Summer," a benefit concert for Gay Men's Health Crisis March 16. "I am thrilled to be making my Carnegie Hall debut to support the people with and affected by HIV who are served by Gay Men's Health Crisis," said Summer. "Even though great medical advances have been made against AIDS, in too many ways, the song remains the same in this epidemic." Summer just won her fifth Grammy Award this year.

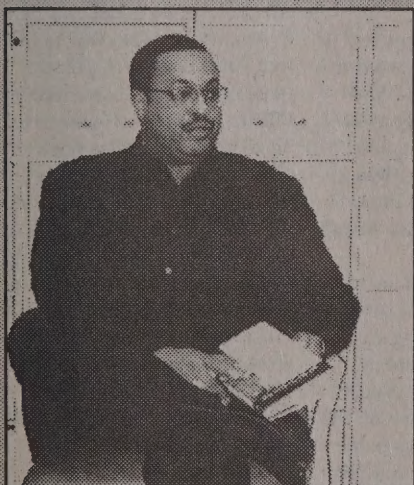
Some parts of the gay community have been boycotting Summer's work for years. Despite her large and loyal gay following, in the mid-1980s Summer told an audience that she believed AIDS was God's punishment for homosexuals. She has never publicly apologized for the comments.



TOP THREE PHOTOS are from the Expo for Today's Black Women, held mid-March at McCormick Center. from left: Model Iman; politician Darlene Burnett and Marie Dee; attorney and reporter Star Jones. The Expo again this year included a lesbian/bi women's panel. Photos by Israel Wright



BELOW: Openly gay author E. Lynn Harris reading from his books at Gerber/Hart Library's new salon series. Photo by Israel Wright.



RIGHT: U.S. Rep. Danny Davis, who won his Democratic primary for re-election, spoke at an Oak Park rally in favor of a domestic-partners registry in that suburb. The measure won, giving gay activists a narrow victory. See the March 25 Outlines for more election results. Photo by Israel Wright.



LEFT and BELOW: Women enjoying the International Women's Day Dance, sponsored by several women's organizations. Photos by Tracy Baim



LEFT: Onyx hosted a Mr. Mid Atlantic Leatherman contest at Cell Block. From left: Mr. Mid Atlantic Leather Isadore; Mr. Cell Block Wade; and Ms. Mid Atlantic Leather Marcia. Photo by Israel Wright.



Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays Confab April 3-4

The 4th annual Unity Conference, *Renaissance & Renewal: Celebrating Ourselves*, is set for Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4, at the Holiday Inn, 300 E. Ohio. Registration begins 11 a.m. Friday, with the opening plenary session at 1 p.m. The men's and women's institutes are 5-7 p.m., and there will be a People of Color Poetry Slam at the Vix, 2814 N. Halsted, 9 p.m. (lesbian poet Cheryl Clarke is one of the judges).

On Saturday, registration begins 8 a.m., along with a continental breakfast. The morning's keynote address by Dr. Marjorie Hill starts at 9. Workshop sessions follow, and then Phill Wilson's keynote is at 11:45. There is a reception 6:30-7:30 p.m., followed by a banquet and gala at 8 p.m.

For more information and a schedule of events call the CBLG hotline (312) 409-4917.

Marjorie Hill by La Jaunessee Jordan

Dr. Marjorie J. Hill, 41, who has many impressive accomplishments, will be one of the keynote speakers at the 1998 Unity Conference. Hill is Commissioner for the New York State Workers' Compensation Board. Nominated for that position by Gov. Mario Cuomo, Hill was appointed by the New York State Senate to serve a seven-year term. She is a licensed clinical psychologist and is a long-standing member of the Association of Black Psychologists. She served as their first openly lesbian president of ABP. She is also the former director of the New York City Mayor's Office for the Lesbian and Gay Community. In that position, she negotiated inclusion of a lesbian and gay contingent in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Mayor David Dinkins marched with the

group. She also conducted sensitivity training with the New York City Police Department and cultural diversity training at the Board of Education.

Dr. Hill comes to the Unity Conference with high recommendations from several Chicagoans who heard her speak at



the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum Conference. Hill said she is very excited to be a part of the conference. She told BLACKLINES: "Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays have high ideals—to have an annual conference." She said she looks forward to "a wonderful opportunity to meet other African-American lesbians and gays."

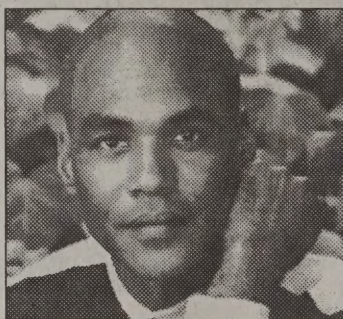
Hill told BLACKLINES that some of her favorite topics for presentation are related to "how we view ourselves, how we cherish or (don't) cherish ourselves, how we value or devalue who we are and how it impacts the work we do, the children we raise and the quality of our organizations." Hill said she likes to talk about self-esteem and self-confidence for lesbians and gays, lesbian and gay inclusion, and lesbians and gays being more cohesive.

Hill said she thinks African-Americans should reclaim communities by being more a part of them, "not saying, 'The church, the boy scouts, AKA ... don't want me, so I'm not going to be a part of it.'"

Dr. Hill said that her activism began at age 12 when she sent

\$5 to help free Joanne Sessimar, an African-American woman who was incarcerated. Hill said a corrections officer attempted to rape the woman and she either seriously injured or killed him and was charged.

Hill said she realized at about age 18 that she had "very strong romantic feelings for ... one particular woman. And I didn't freak out. It became clear to me that it was not a passing phase. It was obviously not



Dr. Marjorie Hill and Phill Wilson

something that just happened. I realized I had been attracted to women for a long time." She said she came out to her mother at age 19 or 20. Hill said she woke her mom up one night at midnight and told her. She said her mom's response was "very positive."

Dr. Hill said she became interested in the field of psychology, while attending an experimental high school in Brooklyn, and taking a psychology class. "I fell in love with the notion that behavior has meaning and we can understand that and alter (our behavior)," she said. "We can minimize our pain. If you really understand yourself, you can have a better life."

She said she is regretfully unable to attend the conference on Friday because Lambda Independent Democrats—of which she is a member—will be celebrating their 20th anniversary and they will be honoring her. Dr. Marjorie Hill will present the welcome and keynote address at the Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays 4th annual Unity Conference on Saturday, April 4, at 9 a.m.

Phill Wilson

by Robert Schultz

Phill Wilson's leadership as an AIDS activist has taken him around the world. While BLACKLINES interviewed Wilson by phone, the co-founder of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum was preparing to leave the following day to lead a delegation of Black lesbians and gays to visit South Africa.

Although Wilson's activism has taken him around the country and to many foreign countries, he is concerned about "how Black lesbians and gays have safe space in the Black community." This concern has motivated Phill's work for some time.

Wilson, who has been open about his HIV-positive status, related how, in 1987, he attended the first National Minority AIDS conference that was held in Atlanta. "It was clear to me that AIDS was an important issue in the Black community," Wilson reflected. However, to his dismay, there was not a single session that focused on the issues of Black gay men. Later conversations with Black lesbian activist Pat Parker about the absence of any community dialogue about breast cancer caused him to realize "how little support" there was at the time for Black lesbians and gays. Wilson realized the need to come together.

Wilson relates that the Leadership Forum was born of "modest goals" to generate energy among Black gays and lesbians so the work that was being done to address the health and community issues would not continue to be conducted in isolation.

Wilson is excited about the current state of affairs for the Black lesbian/gay/trans community. "We should be proud of our Black gay organizations," said Wilson. He noted that these organizations have taken on civil rights, AIDS, and other justice issues around the country. Wilson made a point of citing the participation of Black lesbi-

gays in Chicago's Bud Billiken parade, and the People of Color Coalition's challenge to AIDS Walk Chicago. Nationally Wilson pointed to the NAACP's recognition of a Black gay community by the awarding of the group's Image Award to author E. Lynn Harris this year.

Wilson's optimism isn't limited to the United States. "There are queer folk busting out all over," stated Wilson with regard to developments in Africa.

Across the African continent Wilson has seen sexual diversity coming into the open in the face of potential harm.

"There is really courageous indigenous work being done." This work is being done even though AIDS in Africa is a "really tragic" problem.

"AIDS is spreading at an unbelievable pace," Wilson observed. The damage done by AIDS in Africa is "immeasurable in magnitude."

It would be a mistake to think that Wilson's concerns end at the issues of Black gay men. Wilson noted that for communities of color there exists a racial health gap that needs to be addressed. He expressed disappointment that addressing the racial health gap is not on the national agenda.

Looking forward to the next century, Wilson related how he is, "personally hopeful in ways (he hasn't) been in a long time." But he doubts if humanity has improved in caring for one another. The inability to address the diversity of humanity makes him less hopeful about the survival of the human species.

Nevertheless, Wilson told the story of his experience as a Grand Marshall in Atlanta for the Martin Luther King Day celebrations demonstrate how far society has come. When Wilson was the MLK grand Marshall he spoke before a variety of gatherings from rural churches in Georgia, in union halls, and in communities large and small. Wilson's report of gracious and welcoming treatment by all the audiences during that experience is proof of the progress society has made to date.

Cheryl Clarke by C.C. Carter

Lesbian/Feminist poet Cheryl Clarke said she is very excited to be a part of this year's Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays' Unity Conference IV—*Renaissance and Renewal: Celebrating Ourselves*.

Clarke, born in Washington, D.C., in 1947, is now the director of The Office of Diverse Community Affairs and Lesbian-Gay Con-

cerns, at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J. and has specific responsibility in the area of lesbian and gay student life. Those not familiar with Clarke's achievements and who have not heard this dynamic poet read or present are in for a treat.

A graduate of Howard University in the late 1960s, she was moved to write poetry during the Black Power Movement. Since then she has become the author of four



Cheryl Clarke

books of poetry, *Narratives: Poems In the Tradition of Black Women* (the groundbreaking collection), *Living As A Lesbian* (Firebrand Books, 1993), *Humid Pitch* (Firebrand, 1989), and her last book which was nominated for a 1994 Lambda Award, *Experimental Love* (Firebrand, 1993). Her work has also been included in several anthologies, such as, *This Bridge Called*

My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color, *Narratives: Poems In the Tradition of Black Women*; *Homegirls: A Black Feminist Anthology*; and more recently in *Ma-ka: Diasporic Juks/Contemporary Writing by Queers of African Descent*.

Clarke will present at the Women's Institute on Friday, April 3, at 2 p.m. on issues that concern African-American lesbian visibility within our community. She will also give the Welcome Address at the Friday night Celebrating Ourselves' reception. Clarke will be a judge at the People of Color Poetry Slam, at The Vix, 2814 N. Halsted from 9 to 11 p.m. that same night. So all you slammers and poets who have words that vibe, here's your chance to do your thang and you might get discovered in the process.

On Saturday, Clarke will sign copies of *Experimental Love* and will do a reading from her new work in progress, *Chicago Renaissance and Other Poems*, where she uses poetry to "unearth the untold or not-told—enough stories of women, triumphant lesbians, ambivalent men, slaves and ex-slaves, and the children who survive childhood." She then teams up with Brian Freeman of Pomo Afro Homo and Alaric Blair, Black Literary Reviewer to do a panel discussion on *The Role Of The Arts As A Political Forum*.

For more information and a schedule of events call the CBLG hotline (312) 409-4917.

The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn City Centre, 300 E. Ohio St., April 3-4. Cheryl Clarke's participation in the Unity Conference is made possible by Literary Exchange and Affinity, and is co-sponsored by BLACKLINES/NIGHTLINES.

Of Althea and Flaxie by Cheryl Clarke

In 1943 Althea was a welder very dark very butch and very proud loved to cook, sew, and drive a car and did not care who knew she kept company with a woman who met her every day after work in a tight dress and high heels light-skinned and high-cheekboned who loved to shoot, fish, play poker and did not give a damn who knew her 'man' was a woman.

Althea was gay and strong in 1945 and could sing a good song from underneath her welder's mask and did not care who heard her sing her song to a woman.

Flaxie was careful and faithful mindful of her Southern upbringing watchful of her tutored grace long as they treated her like a lady she did not give a damn who called her a 'bulldagger.'

In 1950 Althea wore suits and ties Flaxie's favorite colors were pink and blue People openly challenged their flamboyance but neither cared a fig who thought them 'queer' or 'funny.'

When the girls bragged over break of their sundry loves, Flaxie blithely told them her old lady Althea took her dancing every weekend and did not give a damn who knew she clung to a woman.

In 1955 when Flaxie got pregnant and Althea lost her job Flaxie got herself on relief and did not care how many caseworkers threatened midnite raids.

Althea was set up and went to jail for writing numbers in 1958. Flaxie visited her every week with gifts and hungered openly for her thru the bars and did not give a damn who knew she waited for a woman.

When her mother died in 1965 in New Orleans Flaxie demanded that Althea walk beside her in the funeral procession and did not care how many aunts and uncles knew she slept with a woman.

When she died in 1970 Flaxie fought Althea's proper family not to have her laid out in lace and dressed the body herself and did not care who knew she'd made her way with a woman.

From "Narratives: poems in the tradition of black women" (Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, 1983)

Nightmare in Gaydom

LESBIAN CLONES
& GAY DRONES
by D.L. Sanders

I went to D.C. in February to attend the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum Conference. I was sent there with financial support from the Crossroads Foundation. They want to ensure that youth of color, lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transsexual, have the opportunity to create effective leadership skills in our community. This is a big task but they are doing their part.

The Conference was a good experience for me. I met a lot of people and talked to several about the youth conference that a group of us from around the country are planning. There is one thing which stood out. It didn't make me cringe or go running back into the closet, but nevertheless it was a concern. What is it, you may ask? People are not saying what they feel. *Oh, you may say, what a desperate situation. Let's call a blue-ribbon presidential panel to examine this horror in American culture.* Well, laugh if you want, but maybe we should. Maybe we should be afraid that we have replaced self-thought with a Borg collective brain cell.

Somehow, in our attempt to educate society around our African-American, gay, and lesbian issues, we have created a society of drones. We hear people say African-American instead of Black and Latino instead of Hispanic. Most of us think it is ridiculous when people get upset over being called the latter but we want to be PC so we don't just tell the oversensitive to eat their Wheaties and leave us the hell alone.

We sit through meetings, never expressing our disbelief when we find something someone says is offensive. I've watched many Black gay men talk about the fact that they find it arrogant that a Black lesbian runs a program for Black men when the same



Black lesbian found it offensive that her previous program is being run by a male. But they say nothing; instead, they whisper behind her back. I've seen lesbians comment on how Black gay men treat them as the guests nobody wants at the table but they say this amongst themselves.

What is wrong in our culture when to disagree is grounds for execution? I never believed in being PC. This does not mean I believe in being offensive, insensitive or rude but I think I should have the right to stand up and say, "Hey, you don't have a clue about reaching that population so put aside your overblown ego and step down." We can not become clones because then we become everything we have fought so hard to get away from. If this means that you offend someone, then, oh well. If everyone likes you, you have to be doing something wrong.

At the Forum Conference, I noticed the tip-toeing around feelings and statements. Actually, it was extremely annoying. We talked about unity and diversity but segregation could have been the main theme of the conference. Most of the groups were divided into women or men groups. We don't want to think our issues are similar but for the most part they are not. But isn't it time we throw out the division and political correctness and just be ourselves?

After all, if you don't be yourself, when you decide to look for who you are even your own reflection won't be familiar.

You can contact Cross Roads Foundation at 3411 West

Diversey, Suite 20, Chicago, IL 60647-1245 or call at (773)227-7676 for information about their youth grants. You can contact National Youth of Color about their upcoming conference at P.O. Box 496024, Chicago, IL 60649 or call me at (773)752-7867.

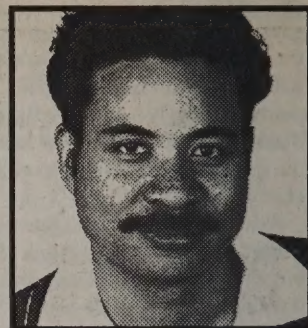
Little Drummer Boy

by Jean Pierre Campbell

As I headed toward the subway stairs to catch the train home, suddenly daily routine took on the aura of ritual, because from the depths of the subway, I could hear the distant rumbling of drums. After I paid the fare and headed down the stairs connecting to the boarding platform, I became engulfed by a fierce, mellifluous rhythm, traveling through the subway tunnel with the rush of a furious, percussive whirlwind. Entranced, I followed the trail of sound as I subdued the momentary urge to suddenly leap off the platform in flight homeward. After all, like Nike, the drums were saying, "Just do it!" making me believe in the impossible, especially since the train is never on time when I need it to be.

Still I couldn't help but wonder who was responsible for conjuring up such magnificent, subterranean rhythm—rhythm so deeply southern that it wasn't Western anymore; rhythm that made you reflect back, way back, before doowop and backwater Mississippi blues and soiled cotton fields and crowded Middle Passage when we were less slaves ... to the rhythm.

As I neared the drums I imagined the men playing had huge hands that could hold sound or hands that could chop down trees with one blow to make wood for sturdy drums. However, when I came upon the spot where sound begins, I was struck dumb to find three lil nappy-headed brothas, hip hoppishly dressed in misshapen sacks of clothing as if



they intended to accommodate a sudden burst of physical growth, a rush to manhood, as it were, at any moment.

The teenage elder of the group, the only one with a real drum, had dreads. But while dreads on the average brotha don't say a damn thing about consciousness, instinctively, I knew that combination of drums and dreads was altogether different somehow. In fact, lil brothaman beat them drums as if they were life sustaining—not just for himself but for those who knew how to listen, too, like the brotha standing nearby who, with closed eyes, had an almost holy countenance as he religiously swayed to and fro.

The lil brothas were accompanied by an old man who reminded me of the lovable winos that hung out on the corner of my childhood, because of the way he held the empty O. E. bottle in his hand, the instrument he played by tapping it in time.

I wanted to go over to the littlest brotha, who was not bigger than a drum himself, and ask, "Little man, where did you learn to make such magnificent music with nuthin' but a got-damn bucket and a stick?" But instead, I just gave him a couple of dollars before I boarded my train.

Because I know what these (and all) lil brothas will face as young adult Black men someday, I pretty much worry about them; knowing the level of ingenuity that will be required just for survival. But for some reason, I know I'll worry less now whenever I take the train ... and I hear them drums.

reviews ...

Barbara Jordan Biography, 'All God's Children' Video

Jordan's Passions by La Jaunessee Jordan

Former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, one of the most influential women in the 20th century, is the topic of a new biography that discusses in detail her 17-year lesbian relationship. *Barbara Jordan, The Biography* (Golden Touch Press, \$14.77) was written by Austin Teutsch, who said, "It saddens me that Barbara did not live to see this book published: but I am grateful for the support she gave me. Her lifetime companion, Nancy Earl, is still with us, and I hope she will be pleased with this tribute to Barbara."

The book tells of Jordan's growing up in the ghetto of Houston, and how she was inspired by her family to move forward and rise above the prejudice of the time, pursue her education to become a lawyer and ultimately, to enter the world of politics.

Jordan's attending college was a family project—both emotionally and financially. Her sisters "unselfishly" gave Jordan money for books and room and board. "They believed that if a change was on the horizon, then Barbara would be the messenger."

Jordan's unique baritone voice made people notice her, beginning at an early age. In high school, she joined the debate team. Her wisdom is evident in this quote from her high school debate on integration: "One must recognize at the outset that integration is a process whose end will probably not be fully realized in our generation. Yet, although we may not receive the victory, the quest is worth our effort," Jordan said. She won oratorical contest after contest, including winning a college scholarship to

any school in the nation.

According to the book, Barbara's grandfather advised her to never marry. "Perhaps this wise old man instinctively knew that Barbara would never become a wife and mother: that her romantic feelings would be ultimately directed to the woman who shared the last 17 years of her life," the author states. In her high school year book, Jordan stated that (among impressive goals) she wanted to change Miss to Mrs. in her name. I think she probably recognized that she had intimate feelings for females and wanted



Barbara Jordan (left) and a graphic for 'All God's Children.'

to attempt to keep others from realizing that. The relationship between Jordan and Earl is discussed throughout *Barbara Jordan, The Biography*, in addition to how her sexuality may have affected her career early on.

Jordan has many impressive accomplishments, including helping to get an 80 percent voter turnout in predominantly Black wards in Houston; carrying every single precinct in Texas' 11th State Senatorial District; and delivering the keynote address at both the 1976 and 1994 Democratic National Conventions (she died in 1996).

This space does not allow for a just representation of all the work Barbara Jordan did in her

lifetime. You will do yourself a favor if you read *Barbara Jordan, The Biography*.

We Are All God's Children by C.C. Carter

"God loves me just the way I am ... God made me African-American, God made me 5'10", and God made me a Lesbian," says Dr. Marjorie Hill, one of 13 New York State Commissioners, beaming into the camera in the four-time award-winning documentary, *All God's Children*.

Released in 1996, this documentary is a beautifully filmed testament to how the roots of homophobia which had once been perpetuated within the Black church, are now being combated by the Black Church. The film features interviews



with ministers, politicians, and (most impressively) Black families, which included fathers giving homage to their gay Black sons who died from AIDS.

The documentary explores what the mission of the church should be in relationship to its influence in the Black lesbian community. The film attacks the myth that a person cannot be Black and gay, and still be a Christian at the same time. In a heartfelt confession, Phill Wilson (Founder of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum), says he "came out" because of the lessons he learned of love, honesty, and truth in the Black Church. It is the challenge of the Black Church to be what it was intended to be, "... it exists

for all God's Children," according to Rev. Dr. Cecil "Chip" Murray of First A.M.E. Church in Los Angeles.

Besides the issues discussed about Black Christianity, Linda Villarosa, (assistant editor of *ESSENCE* MAGAZINE), and her mother address issues of coming out to family members and co-workers. "I did the (coming out) article in *ESSENCE* because I wanted to help other parents to understand that the closet is a dark and lonely place and no one wants their child to experience this place. And how you handle their coming out has an impact on the rest of their lives," said Villarosa's mother.

Phill Wilson's parents also see this as a vital need for Black lesbians and gays as it pertains to combating homophobia in the in the Black community.

"People cannot love us if they don't know who we are. It is insufficient to be out and open across town, if you are not able to be out and open in your home," says Phill.

All God's Children is A Woman Vision Production in association with The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and The National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum. This Documentary is a must see for everyone, having to its credit awards such as Best Documentary from the National Black Arts Festival, and Best Film on Matters Relating to the Black Experience from Black International Cinema Competition.

A special screening of the film will be held Saturday, April 4 at the Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays Unity Conference IV, at the Holiday Inn City Centre, 300 N. Ohio St. Meet the Keynote speakers Dr. Marjorie Hill and Phill Wilson, who are also featured in the film. Rev. Alma Crawford (from Church of the Open Door) will facilitate a discussion after the screening, on "The Role of The Church In Spiritual Healing."

Call CBLG: (312) 409-4917.

For info on ordering *All God's Children*, call (800) 343-5540; fax (201) 652-1973.

flow ~ notes from the BLACKLINES Music Department

Name an album

by Jano

Yvette Washington/ Accounting

— Erykah Badu *Live*

"Because Erykah is marvelous"

Lisa Stewart/ Electronics

— *Stronger Than Pride* or anything by Sade

"I really like something smooth and mellow"

Israel Wright/ Photographer

— *Aretha Franklin's Greatest Hits*

"Because she has such a wide range of discipline in her voice and a lot of emotion"

Heidi Hickman/ Environmental Science Teacher

— Dianne Reeves, *Never Too Far*

"She is a wonderful songstress. Her voice is mature, rich, soulful, and smooth."

Musical Memories

Adventures In Paradise

— Minnie Riperton

"I remember seeing her sing this song on *Saturday Night Live* when I was little. Her singing gave me chills and I remember saying to my mother, 'Mama, I'm cold.' I was so amazed that she could sing so high. That's when I really fell in love with her."

Queen Of My Soul

— Average White Band

"The message really got to me with this song. It sounds like he's singing to a woman but he's really singing about how music is the queen of his soul. The message stuck with me. This is what music stands for."

Lewis Taylor

— Lewis Taylor

"Lewis had true love experiences. He did what Maxwell and Chico DeBarge tried to do. He didn't try to modernize Marvin Gaye, he just sang from the soul. He didn't try to be hip with it. Everyone has been here."

You Go To My Head

— Betty Carter

"Her delivery amazes me. She sings completely off key and her tonal and breathing techniques are so original. The song is already a ballad, but she trails behind the tempo, making it seem even slower."

This month's Musical Memories are from Duane Powell.

Up on It

music reviews by J.

The Family Stand — *Connected* (EastWest/Elektra)

Even the modest hit "Ghetto Heaven" proved that The Family Stand was before their time. But as the music industry demonstrates, being ahead of your time rarely translates into record sales. *Connected* is The Stand's latest attempt to buck the system. Soul/funk geniuses Peter Lord and V. Jeffery Smith are back, but gone is Sandra St. Victor (smarting from her bombed solo effort, *Mack Diva Saves The World*). Selected to fill her shoes is Jacqui McGhee, best known as background vocalist for Keith Sweat and Salt N' Pepa (and owner of her own solo album bomb). While this new mix is not as seamless as Siedah Garret's supervision of N'Dea Davenport in The Brand New Heavies, the Stand still combines enough funk, R&B, soul and rock to embarrass so-called nu-soul artists. "You Don't Have To Worry," "Keepin' You Satisfied," "When Heaven Calls," "More And More" and the funky title track are rife with blood, sweat and tears. Although *Connected* is friendly enough for R&B fans, it's not easily programmable for radio. So if you haven't listened to a CD by The Family Stand, this is a good place to start. Besides, the Chaka-fied "Fienin" is worth the price of the CD.

Madonna — *Ray Of Light* (Maverick/Warner Bros.)

Mariah did it. Janet did it, too (well, sort of). And now the perennial pop queen tries her hand at an ambitious new format for her 13th release. Met with mostly critical acclaim, *Ray* straddles an organic/electronica mood with mixed results. Even with my vast experience in music genres, *Ray Of Light* is hard to peg (not quite drum n' bass or ambient, but with many of those elements). British producer William Orbit combines guitars and keyboards to create a unique, super-uncommercial feel. Momma Madonna, whose reputation for reinvention is legendary, delivers a sound so defiantly confident and pregnant with religious and new age references, it's hard to question her conviction. Unfortunately, I find myself searching for hooks (a staple in Madonna's songs) that don't exist. Therefore, nothing begs me to relisten. The strongest are "Frozen," "Nothing Really Matters," "Little Star" and "Shanti/Ashtangi" (sung in Sanskrit). However, this being Madonna, it'll probably grow on me. That is, if I ever play it again. Pray for many remixes.

The Artist — *Crystal Ball/The Truth ...* (NPG)

Prince (excuse me) The Artist reportedly has so many studio tapes in his vault, he could probably release a CD every month for the next 10 years. *Crystal Ball* is a three-disc compilation of outtakes, studio cuts and various bootleg (unreleased) songs from as early as the '80s. Like *Emancipation*, these discs encompass The Artist in every form. The first disc shines almost as a complete CD (think: *The Black Album*), featuring "Ripogodazippa" (from *Showgirls*) and "What's My Name." The second disc is uneven, consisting of pieced-together outtakes and b-sides ("Good Love"). The third disc is a little more consistent and includes "Last Heart" (always one of my favorite Prince songs), "18 & Over" and "Goodbye," one of the few ballads amongst the three discs.

Altogether, *Crystal Ball* is an extremely funky collection of vintage Prince. Some versions of *Crystal Ball* are bundled with the previously unreleased *The Truth ...* CD; a mostly acoustic collection of beautiful bluesy songs, including "Don't Play With Me" "Dionne," "Fascination" and the incredible "One Of Your Tears." However, the hefty price tag (\$40-60, depending on which version you buy), makes this one for diehard Prince fans only (who probably already have it).

flow ~ notes from the BLACKLINES Music Department

D.J. Harry T's Top Underground 5

1. Be Grateful — The Congregation
2. Catch Me — Mark Picchottie
3. Elements — Danny Tenaglia
4. A New Day — Native Soul feat. Trey Washington
5. Take Me Up (Gotta Get Up) — Ralphie Rosario feat. Donna Blakely

Murk — Miami Deep (Harmless)

by Harry Tyner, Jr.

From their inception into underground dance music seven years ago, the Murk boys have been quite busy producing and remixing signature club classics such as "Some Lovin'," "Reach for Me," and "Fired Up," with their 'Murk' sound gracing works of other artists such as Madonna, Karen Pollack and RuPaul, to name a few.

That classic sound has been captured on this 2-CD set, mixed by the boys themselves. Featured on this compilation are remixes of their own productions as well as remixes of disco diva Donna Summer's "State of Independence," Adeva's "Don't Think About It" and the popular club hit, Haydee's "Plastic Dreams."

The Murk boys have done a superb job of developing their deep south sound. Besides remixing projects, they have also established their own record label, Kumba records.

Also Available: *Murk—The Singles Collection*.

Three-Volume Series Compiles Key Underground Rap Hits For The Hardcore Rap Fan And DJ In All Of Us

Rhino Records has set May 19 for the release of a three-part series gathering seminal sides played on college radio, at backyard parties, and on the turntables of DJs during the most crucial period in hip-hop history. The series is called '80s Underground Rap and is made up of three parts, *Can I Kick It?*, *Can You Feel It?*, and *Don't Believe the Hype!*

Each volume features 12 tracks and will be available in CD format only at a suggested list price of \$11.98. The collection will also be available through RhinoDirect at 1-800-432-0020.

This compilation was assembled to create a scrapbook of some of the most groundbreaking songs in hip-hop. Many of the groups featured on this series—such as Public Enemy, Boogie Down Productions, Special Ed, Jungle Brothers, and De La Soul—were on the scene before such sales tools as Soundscan and rap charts. The success of these artists, and the survival of this genre, depended upon "word of mouth."

The selections represent key underground rap hits that appeal to a hardcore rap fan and DJ. Most of these "lost hits" are extremely hard to find on vinyl and were never before available on CD. Many tracks were B-side cuts that, while ignored on commercial radio, were smashes among the hip-hop club crowd as well as on the playlists of college radio DJs across the country.

Radio played an important role in promoting hip-hop, but in the '80s, unlike today, rap had little exposure on national radio. New York was the only stronghold for rap radio.

Grammys ... GLAMA

Openly gay DJ Frankie Knuckles won the Best remix of the Year category at the 40th Grammy Awards last month.

Other winners included Erykah Badu, Blackstreet, R. Kelly, Will Smith, Chris Rock, and Dee Dee Bridgewater.

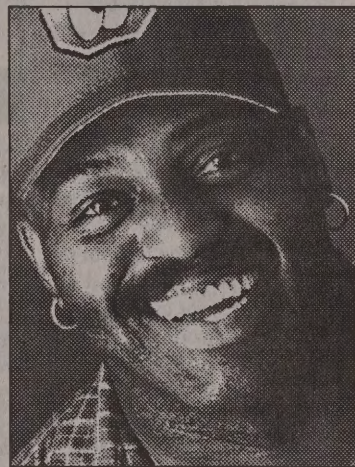
During the Gay and Lesbian American Music Awards (GLAMAs), held March 9 in New York, RuPaul, in man-drag (white Hush-Puppies, black slacks, a long white trench-coat, shaved head and black-framed eyeglasses),

accepted his Outmusic Award ("given to a recording artist who has advanced gay/lesbian music through their work as an out musician) with humility and style. It was never more clear to me how much of a persona RuPaul the diva was. RuPaul Andre Charles is the gentle man behind that foxy lady. Bisexual singer Me'Shell Ndegéocello won two GLAMAs (Female Artist and Video) and lesbian singer Joi Cardwell won the Dance Music GLAMA—a step in the right direction for the out lesbian diva.

This year's Audre Lorde Memorial Lecture at the Outwrite conference in Boston last month was given by Jewelle Gomez. Gomez was introduced by Evelyn Hammond, the first African-American woman to achieve tenure at MIT. In her lecture, Gomez spoke of "not just reading Audre's words, but studying them," to find "the elements of many identities." Gomez called Lorde's work "an opening to a new self." She spoke to the attentive audience about Lorde's "bio-mythography" and how it "pulls from real experience, then creates the construct." She also reminded us of Lorde's advice to "respect whatever pain you bring back from your dreaming." Gomez reminded us of how Lorde included sexuality in her political mode and political statements. She spoke of Lorde's 1983

approach to sexuality as being "like turning on a light in a very, very dark room." Gomez's words had a profound impact on the listeners, as when she said that "we (African American lesbians) have not created images of sensuality and sexuality that are recognizable to ourselves" and that "failure to evoke desire is our fatal flaw." Gomez also read "Ounce of Charm," a monologue in two voices from her new short story collection.

—Gregg Shapiro



Frankie Knuckles



Joi Cardwell

Intersex Living

by **Lynnell Stephanie L.**
The Cup Runneth Over

Still I rise

"You may shoot me with your words, you may cut me with your eyes, you may kill me with your hatefulness, but still, like air, I'll rise." — Maya Angelou

Lately I've been reading a lot about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He's become a mentor to me. It must have taken a lot of strength and courage for him to be kicked, beaten, jailed, and still rise to fight for civil rights. Well, when someone compared me to a rapist and child molester, I sought within myself for that strength and courage to rise above their ignorance and phobia, and I did! For over a year, I have been called names and picked on by Jackie Anderson. I seriously thought by me being invited to perform at MMCH it meant Jackie Anderson decided to leave me alone. I told the Director of A Real Read I planned to go into MMCH and perform poetry and prose that reflects my womanhood, not the side of me people have seen me perform in the past. He told me I was making a big mistake, but I didn't listen. He said, although I have been doing a great job in the past at educating people about the Trans/Intersex community through my writing and performing, my job was far from over. He said I should go into MMCH performing the same work that I perform with A Real Read that outs me as a Trans/Intersex. He said some women don't read BLACKLINES and NIGHTLINES, and that I have to take the message to them. When I was told I would not be able to perform with the Women's Component of A Real Read because "some" women at MMCH believe I am not a woman-born-woman, it caused me to accept a form of reality I tried hard to forget. I know I am a woman, and for C.C. Carter (the Women's Compo-



nent Director) to even think of adding me to the roster of performers, proved to me, she accepted me as a woman also.

The situation with trans women being accepted in MMCH is not only Jackie Anderson's problem, but a problem with a lot of women or "separatists." Because of the incident, I know who my friends are, and who prefers that I would just go away. The letters in OUTLINES proved that Transphobia still exists and lives in the heart of the women I write for, see at socials and even those I thought respected me as a woman. What these women are saying is, "It's OK to be you, just not in our space. Create your own!"

I was proud to know that the Lesbians Avengers and the Women's Action Coalition supported changing the policy to women only, which would include Trans women. On March 7, The Lesbians Avengers, WAC and Transexual Menace-Chicago were present at the International Women's Day Dance asking women to sign an "I support Transgendered Inclusion at MMCH" petition. We received over 50 signatures of women that are against MMCH policy. Signatures of women that think as I do that the policy at MMCH is wrong. As I stood in the lobby asking women to sign the petition, I notice how many women actually support the Trans/Intersex community. As I told them the story of being discriminated against by MMCH, some were shocked to believe such hatred and phobia still exist. Some never even heard of

MMCH and said they wouldn't visit a place where "ALL" women weren't welcomed. It feels great to know some women have come to accept Trans/Intersex women as part of the Lesbian community.

When I came out as a Lesbian, I was told by TS's that I would never be accepted into the lesbian community. Well not only have I been accepted as a lesbian by a lot of lesbians, but I continue to date women that TS's say are out of my league. The situation is this, while TS's are not allowed into MMCH, there are other women-only places we are welcomed. There are women bars and clubs that welcome TS's. While it is important that there be Trans inclusion at women-only places, we must not forget those women-only places that have already opened their doors to the Trans/Intersex community. We should patronize their establishments. The views expressed in OUTLINES by Jackie Anderson and Anne Leighton fall short of representing the greater lesbian community. The Trans/Intersex community have come a long way, and more organizations are including the "Trans" in LesBiGay.

I will continue to write and perform and try to educate transphobic women. I will do my part in making this a better world for the next generation. After all, I am Lynnell Stephanie Long, a woman.

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Editor's Note: Since Jackie Anderson is mentioned by name, BLACKLINES asked Anderson to respond: "I have never met Lynnell nor have I spoken one word to her. I've seen her perform with A Real Read. Neither myself nor Donna Johnson (president of Literary Exchange—which sponsored the Black Herstory event at Mountain Moving which Lynnell discusses) knew Lynnell was planning to perform at MMCH until the afternoon of the event. A Real Read asked Lynnell to perform," Anderson said.

Womyn-born-womyn debate

The following are open letters sent to the Mountain Moving Coffeehouse collective. The first letter points out that Lesbian Avengers is no longer doing a petition drive against the coffeehouse (as referred to in letters published in the March 11 OUTLINES, and in letters below; we are printing these letters in the interest of opening the debate).

To Mountain Moving:

Neither the Chicago Lesbian Avengers nor Lynnell S. Long are participating in or supporting any action against Mountain Moving Coffeehouse now or in the future. Should any action be taken with the intent of closing down Mountain Moving Coffeehouse we, the Lesbian Avengers, will publicly oppose such an action.

The Lesbian Avengers also agree to try to arrange a joint meeting with the Women's Action Coalition (WAC) and Lesbian Avengers to which Mountain Moving Coffeehouse Collective and Friends of the Collective would be invited. Due to ongoing commitments we, the Lesbian Avengers, are unable to meet before the March 21 Coffeehouse. However, efforts will be made to arrange such a meeting in the future.

Signed, Lesbian Avengers:
Chris Guzatis, Julie Bogucki, Susan Yochum, Anne Farberman, Arynne Ament, Lynnell S. Long, Cheryl A. Pattin.

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I am deeply concerned by the tenor of discussion in the community as I write this letter. I am the primary author of the text of the petition currently being circulated asking Mountain Moving Coffeehouse to change their trans-negative policy, and am in no small part responsible for creating the coalition supporting that petition. I am also a five-year community activist and a friend of Lynnell Long, and I feel the need to add my voice to the already heated debate. First let

me assure those who have been questioning the origin and intent of the petition that it has been approved by consensus of the membership of the signatory groups. However, much of that support has been conditional on the scope of the action being limited to the "-born-womyn" aspect of MMCH's policy: there is not now nor has there been any push to build consensus among these women that MMCH should be open to men, or that it should be "destroyed."

My own participation has been contingent on there being absolutely no attempt to utilize legal or police coercion to impose a change in policy from the outside. I consider myself a feminist and a passionate supporter of women-only space—let me elaborate what that means. Feminism, for me, signifies a political response to the condition of being a woman in a violently misogynist culture. If we see our mass culture as inherently anti-woman (and I believe we all have too much evidence to do otherwise) it follows that one of our primary goals must be the initiation and preservation of autonomous spaces within which women can come together to unlearn the self-destructive ideologies we have been trained in, and begin the creation of our own woman-positive culture. It is for this reason that I consider a change in MMCH's policy to be so important—not because I feel the collective represents "the enemy" or because I fear physical violence from the members—puh-leeze!—but because I feel the resource it represents is just too important and must be available to all women. If not there then somewhere.

I am concerned by the way this debate has been framed—admittedly by both sides—as a cohesive group of outsiders demanding an existing group take action to incorporate them into a non-native environment. Quite to the contrary, the trans

women who are pressing for this change are women who have spent years within the larger women's community, and within the campaign for women's, lesbian, and gay liberation who are quite frankly asking an existing group to stop taking the action of frog-marching us to the door every time we speak our own herstories. Awkwardly avoiding pronouns, collective member Jackie Anderson asks "what has Lynnell S. Long contributed to our collective struggle for civil rights and civil liberties?"

While I cannot answer for Ms. Long, I can certainly give some of my own history: I have stood vigil at women's health clinics when Operation Rescue came to close them down. I have faced down Fred "God Hates Fags" Phelps' followers. I have helped plan the 1994 March Against Violence, joined in the 1995 rally for women's lives in D.C., agitated against campus rape cover-ups at the University of Chicago, helped plan the 1997 Dyke March, eaten fire and beaten drums in the faces of the male-supremacist Promise Keepers at the capitol and at Soldier Field, staffed the women's center at the U of C when it was nothing more than a pup tent and a folding table. I have hung flyers, arranged performers, and ultimately worked security at the alternate space for women when our "Gay and Lesbian Pride" parade was finally recognized as an unsafe environment ... obviously none of this "proves" I am a woman (or deserve entrance anywhere) but I hope it does enough to dispel the accusation that this 23-year-old has lived a life of apathy up till now. Nor, I think, is this atypical for trans women in Chicago—granted I move in somewhat focused circles, but the trans women I have encountered there have usually been at least as dedicated and as active as I, often much more so.

In a more personal letter, col-

lective member Anne Leighton describes her ambivalence and uncertainty about being identified with the word "woman," and wonders how "a person with a penis who the world treated as male is entirely confident of what it feels like to be a woman, knew what that meant from birth."

To this I can answer only the bedrock response of all women, trans and non-trans: we know we are women by the myriad ways in which the world reminds us every single day, independent of our own interpretations and meanings. We know we are women, trans and non-trans, because we find in other women the sense that we have come home to our own. We know we are women, trans and non-trans, in ways that are sometimes mystical and baffle language—but we do know. It is true that there are women born with what is termed at the time to be a penis, and raised for a certain amount of time as male. This is privilege. There are also women born white, or raised to be native speakers of English. We do nobody any favors when we punish or silence women who acknowledge and confront their privilege, especially when we as a community possess the greatest tools to facilitate this unlearning, and especially when we as a community stand to gain so much from the unique perspective trans people bring to questions of gender and gendered herstory

The petition campaign has been criticized by members of the MMCH collective for involving non-trans members of the women's community, as if no-one has any connection to trans women's lives but other trans women. Don't divide the community, they ask, and face the real enemy. To which I respond—hell yes! Let's stop dividing the community into trans and non-trans, and then further into "good" non-trans women and trans-positive non-trans women. Let's stop divid-

ing the community so finely that we see each other as enemies, when in fact we are all women working together on the same big project. Let's face our real enemies together, as we do outside of this one small policy-regulated space. Let's hurry up and make this a non-issue before too many ideological black eyes threaten what work we have already done around it.

In hopes of further respectful discussion, Anne Farbman (Tagonist)

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Sarah Hoagland responds

Ok, then, let's talk about privilege.

"It is true that there are women born with what is termed at the time to be a penis, and raised for a certain amount of time as male. This is privilege. There are also women born white, or raised to be native speakers of English. We do nobody any favors when we punish or silence women who acknowledge and confront their privilege ..." — Anne Farbman (Tagonist)

I have been born with what is termed at the time to be white skin, and raised for a certain amount of time as white. This is privilege.

And now I see how I can address this privilege. After all, I have known "in ways that are sometimes mystical and baffle language—but I do know" that I am black ...

No, I can't do this. It is not true. I am white and have been engaged in challenging contexts I have been born into for over 50 years—what it means to be a woman, a lesbian, what it means to be white/Anglo, what it means to be American. But I know white lesbians who feel as I described above, who claim to have been Native American in a former life, others who have done everything possible to find some black ancestor, lesbians who would dye their skin black if they dared, like John Howard

Griffin, though not to force whites to confront their prejudices but rather to "come home to their own."

Apparently these lesbians now have a new role model for dealing with their privilege. They can confront their privilege by coming out as black. And the two I can think of who are performers, can apply to A Real Read to perform.

And should A Real Read refuse them entry, I assume I can expect Lynnell S. Long to file a complaint with the Human Rights Commission and Anne Farbman to draw up a lengthy whereas-legalistic-but-not-legal-petition and get the Avengers and WAC to sign it, threatening who knows what other Antagonistic action in the spirit of coalition building and community dialogue.

However, in my experience this is not confronting privilege but exercising it. I do not support such action.

When I was touring Australia I spoke at length with an Aboriginal lesbian who talked about how white colonists took Aboriginal children and raised them as white. There is an ongoing effort to recover the lost ones, to bring them back into the community. But they are not allowed in certain spaces, and they are *never* allowed to speak for Aboriginals because of how they were raised, even though they had been born in the "right" body.

To Lynnell and Anne:

If you speak as transsexuals, then I will listen to you and support you in your fight against injustice. And I will support your effort to create a transsexual coffeehouse which will admit whomever you think it appropriate to admit depending on the boundaries you wish to set to encourage a transsexual imagination to flourish.

But, if you claim to speak as women or lesbians then I say it is not your place to speak for

lesbians or women, and certainly not your place to lead a lesbian organization.

That two former men are engaged in getting lesbians and women to take action against MMCH in these hostile and aggressive ways is precisely one of the reasons for womyn-only space. Once men come in, they redirect action to their own agendas and focus attention on themselves.

You are not confronting your male privilege, you are continuing to exercise it.

Sarah Lucia Hoagland

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Jackie Anderson response

I am writing this as an open letter and in response to a letter forwarded to Mountain Moving Coffeehouse (MMCH) by Lynnell S. Long. I am a member of the MMCH collective and one of the producers of the shows; however, this is a personal response to the letter since the writer seems to believe that there is a "situation" between us.

On Feb. 7, the Literary Exchange was scheduled to present their Black Herstory show at the coffeehouse. I spoke to someone from the Literary Exchange and A Real Read that afternoon and in the course of the conversation was informed that the Women's Component of A Real Read had been asked to perform. It was at that time that I was told that that included Lynnell S. Long. Neither the President of the Literary Exchange nor I knew prior to that conversation that Lynnell S. Long was to perform. I reminded the representative from A Real Read of the womyn-born-womyn-only policy of the coffeehouse and that Lynnell S. Long would not be able to perform. That is the incident that has spurred the correspondence forwarded to the collective.

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse is now 23 years old and has had the same policy ever since its founding. The policy is not mine; it is the poli-

cy of the coffeehouse, and thus it was not my personal decision that this member of A Real Read could not perform, but rather the long-term and consistent policy of the coffeehouse. Mountain Moving is the only womyn-born-womyn space in this entire city and virtually the only space of its kind in the country. It exists because of the volunteer efforts of lesbians on the collective and other lesbians who come to set up chairs, sell goodies, put together the sound system, etc. We have performances once a month for most months and we rent a room in Ebenezer Lutheran Church for those performances.

As some of you know, I am the founder and a steering committee member of Yahimba. We invited and paid A Real Read, including Lynnell S. Long, to perform at our conference in October and Transgenesis to convene a workshop focusing on the important concerns of transgendered and transsexual persons. So again this is not a personal issue, but rather a political concern.

For over 30 years vulnerable communities have requested, demanded, and fought for the right to come together with each other and in the absence of others. Communities of color have individually done so; gay men have done so; lesbians have done so; women have done so. Within our community, we have Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays, Latinas Amigas, GAPIC, Khuli Zaban, et al. We have been able to work together and form meaningful coalitions because we have respected each other and our chosen boundaries. These boundaries are not generally legally defensible, but a tacit agreement has allowed them to exist. Without that tacit agreement, we could not proceed with our chosen work.

As persons defined as outsiders with a fragile right to exist, we have important common interests. However, we

also have work to do in our own communities and joys that we choose to share with each other. We do not forward our struggle by disrespecting the small and limited spaces that we have each been able to carve for ourselves. Lynnell S. Long has been consistent in targeting Mountain Moving Coffeehouse as a space that will either change its policy or cease to exist. That is disrespectful and a strange political stance. Lynnell S. Long's letter states:

The next plan of action is to file a formal discrimination complaint at the Chicago Commission of Human Relations. I am also a member of Transsexual Menace-Chicago and we will go to any length to make sure the public is aware of the outright discrimination MMCH has displayed. We will take action against Mountain Moving Coffeehouse.

That is a threat. However, Lynnell S. Long and Transsexual Menace-Chicago do not need to "go to any length" to publicize our policy—it is on all of our flyers. The collective has been given ten working days to either change our policy or suffer the consequences. So Lynnell S. Long has assumed the right to assault one of the most vulnerable institutions in our community. What does Lynnell S. Long choose to create in our absence? What has Lynnell S. Long contributed to our collective struggle for civil rights and civil liberties? Are there not more relevant and important concerns for self-identified transsexuals?

It is my considered opinion that this is certainly not a lesbian, womyn-born-womyn, or transsexual issue. If our self-defined parameters are not respected then we have nothing and no one to fight but each other. That will make those who hate us quite happy. The city of Chicago can do very well without MMCH, but what about the lesbians who

come to our events to be in the company of other lesbians? Do they not count? Politically, I do not believe that anyone has the right to enter a vulnerable community and set about to deliberately and knowingly destroy one of its oldest institutions and an institution that serves to empower many who have supported it for a number of years.

I am always suspicious of anyone who attempts to force attention away from serious political issues and on to themselves. The coffeehouse policy does no harm to this community. It also does no harm to Lynnell S. Long. There are many other venues for poetry readings, particularly since this is someone who is a member of a very successful performance/poetry group. So why so much focus on the coffeehouse? It is simply not clear to me in what way this advances the legitimate political aspirations of Transsexual Menace-Chicago or Lynnell S. Long.

However, Lynnell S. Long must be able to offer a compelling political analysis forwarding the strategy that engaging MMCH in a defense of our right to exist is an important step toward the liberation of our community.

Thank you, Jackie Anderson

▼▼▼▼

On Strategies and Tactics in Dealing With Difference

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children. That's its name. That's been its name for 23 years. What does it mean? I couldn't tell you exactly even tho I have been either a collective member or a friend of the Coffeehouse for many years. 'Mountain Moving'—generally I think the expression is regarded as more metaphoric than literal, although we dream and sometimes experience it as both. 'Coffeehouse'—for some recollections of the '60s, others never experienced that, so they listen and guess and help shape the meaning. That it has nothing of significance to do with

Starbucks, most of us are certain. 'Children'—what makes one an adult rather than a child? Ask a 15-year-old and then ask her mother. Different perspectives, different sensibilities, different definitions, some of which are bound to be mutually exclusive. 'Womyn'—what that means in patriarchy womyn, women, wimmin have been discovering, inventing, exploring, rejecting and articulating I suspect since the first time the perspective 'because you are a woman' made social sense. The range of articulation is immense.

I am a woman and yet I couldn't tell you exactly what that means, what that feels like separated and isolated from my other identities and ways of being. Many wimmin I've talked to find themselves in a similar quandary. And many lesbians experienced/experience tremendous conflict and uncertainty first as girl children and then as adults about themselves in relation to being a girl, being a woman.

I find it fascinating that a person with a penis who the world treated as male is entirely confident of what it feels like to be a woman, knew what that meant from birth.

Different experiences, different perspectives, different sensibilities.

How to deal with difference? What strategies, what tactics will we use with one another? For me the basis for the possibility of coalition work begins with a passionate, fundamental, loving curiosity premised on the fact that I neither know nor understand everything and I think that I never will. The core attitude is one of respect.

What strategies and tactics has Lynnell S. Long chosen with regards to MMCH? Long's first approach was one based on deceit, of not identifying as a transsexual. Long chose to not respect MMCH's policy and to violate its self-proclaimed boundaries in physically entering Coffeehouse space. Long's next tactic was to publicly trash the lesbians of MMCH. In her

March 1997 column in BLACKLINES, Long expresses the belief that being closeted as a transsexual is all that prevents "a group of angry dykes [from] waiting outside to assault me." Long does not question the validity of that belief. A belief that would be laughable if it did not echo/perpetuate anti-lesbian stereotypes. Long presumes to know all there is to know about us and therefore does not see the absurdity in the scenario of a group of dykes going to the trouble of creating and sustaining the Coffeehouse all these years an elaborate cover for their secret agenda of beating up transsexuals. The fact that such an assault did not occur and has never occurred in the herstory of MMCH did not deter Long from presenting that paranoid fantasy as a valid truth. Nor has Long ever bothered to ask the Coffeehouse why its policy reads as it does. Long presumes to know and to call it discrimination.

To me this shows a lack of curiosity, an unwillingness to learn—the worst type of arrogant ignorance. The type of arrogant ignorance that wrecks coalition work.

And what is Long's strategy now? Long writes a letter to the Board of Directors (a non-existent entity) saying that MMCH has to change its policy to one that mirrors Long's perspective.

Failure to adopt Long's perspective as our own is not acceptable. Failure to welcome Long into our physical space is not acceptable. Failure in fact will result in Long's filing "a formal Discrimination Complaint at the Chicago's Commission on Human Relations." Also planned "We [Transsexual Menace-Chicago] will take action against Mountain Moving Coffeehouse." Don't ask, don't listen, don't learn, Do insist that your perspective rule for all—that is not coalition work but tyranny.

"I will violate your physical space on my terms. If you do not accept that violation, I will punish you and/or attempt to destroy you." Does that kind of logic/strategy remind anybody else of incest, rape, or battering experiences? Is this the way we want to deal with difference? No matter what your perspective on the issue of womyn-only space or how that space should be constituted, the question I ask you is do you wish to encourage and support Long's tactics? As a woman, as a lesbian, as a survivor of incest, of rape and of physical and psychological torture, I wholeheartedly encourage and support the Coffeehouse in resisting acts of violation, of assault.

Keep the policy.

Anne T. Leighton

UIC

Race, Sexuality & Homophobia

Panel discussion by:

Mary Morten - City of Chicago

Yvette Cardona - Las Amigas Latinas & WACT

Javier Barajas - Assoc. of Latino Men for Action

Moderator: Renae Ogletree

Date: Wednesday, April 15th

Time: 3- 4:30 pm

Location: Chicago Circle Center, 750 S. Halsted,

Rooms- 509/510

Sponsored by:

Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues

For more info call - Tim Murphy at 312-996-3595

PERSONALS

HINT: When using the voice response system, increase your chances of a match by choosing the BROWSE option. **WARNINGS:** 1. We no longer accept for print home phone numbers or addresses. 2. Vice officers sometimes respond to suspect ads in an effort to uncover illegal activity. Note: sex-for-money agreements (even if no sex occurs) are illegal. **CODE:** ISO = In Search Of

WOMEN

Female hermaphrodite seeking other female hermaphrodite for discussing our unique physical condition. Privacy assured, please no games, serious replies only. **Voice 52554 (5)**

Attractive 33 y/o GBF with one child. ISO attractive GBF 30-40 for serious relationship. No full figure women no games and no threesomes. **Pager (773) 226-5634 (5)**

Soft butch, Korean, funny, outgoing. Mostly PC, active in community. Love movies. Computer genius. 5'4", 126#. What more could you ask for? Looking for same in femme. Korean or other Asian only. **(773) 528-0073. (5)**

Hi, Ladies. If you need a soft butch in your life and a warm hearted caring person, then stop looking. I'm 5'2" brn eyes brn skin, looking also for a lady to have in my life. Any way, here I am waiting for you. Believe me, you're not going to be disappointed, love you or not. **NLBox/Voice 52546**

Late at night, when you can't sleep, do you stare at the ceiling and ask yourself, "Why, oh why, is my life so empty?" Could the answer be that you don't play bridge as often as you should? Well, that big, throbbing brain of yours can finally rest easy. An all-girl bridge group is now forming. Beginners welcome. Call **Voice 52544 (5)**

Gay Black attached female, attractive, hot, 36, intelligent, educated, financially secure, non-smoker, drinker or drug user, lots of fun, with many interests, looking for a friend with similarities, must be attractive, over 5', non-smoker or drug user, to spend free time with, converse and do girl things, etc. Age & race unimportant. Please write & include phone number. **NLBox 32 (4)**

Woman of substance sought by fit, educated, passionate, cat-loving, creative-GWF, ISO sensitive, fit, educated, soulful, GF 38-45 for friendship, laughter, conversation, dancing, good wine, jazz, and tenderness. Send note, photo/cartoon. **NLBox 28 (4)**

You're ISO working professional/ independent/ sensitive/ considerate/ affectionate/ attractive/ single women beautiful inside and out. Join

Personals

How to place an ad:

- The first 20 words are free; each additional word is 25¢. Ads run 2 Months. ADS ARE FOR ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Groups wishing to place ads in personals can do so at CLASSIFIED rates (\$10/30 words for 1 month, 3 months \$27).
- In addition to your ad, send your name, address, home phone & signature.
- You will be assigned a free voice-mailbox number, unless you specify you do not want one. You can record a voice-mail message for free; retrieving messages costs \$1.49 per minute. Upon receipt of your ad, we will send

your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.

- You can rent BLACKLINES mailbox \$6 per month, if you wish to have written responses forwarded to you; we send them out once a week. (If you have your own PO Box, voice mail #, or beeper #, we request \$5 per 2 months. We DO NOT accept ads with home address/phone)
- Deadline is 10th of each month for next BLACKLINES. You can also run in Nightlines and Outlines and En La Vida.

How to respond to an ad:

- If an ad ends with an NLV #, you can reply by mail or by phone to that ad (some ads will list an address + a voice-mail # in parenthe-

ses—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail).

- If ad ends with NL BOX #, you can only reply by mail. If it ends with Voice #, you can only reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).
- To respond in writing, send letter to the NLV # or NL BOX # specified at the end of the ad, c/o BLACKLINES, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chgo, IL 60657. Respond to all others ads as specified at the end of the ad.
- To leave a voice-mail message (\$1.49/min.), use touchtone phone to call 1-900-454-0101. Punch 1 & 5-digit NLV # or NL Voice # to respond to that ad — or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages. (773) 871-7610 (Tuesdays 9-5 only)

Ad should read

Please also run ad in (no extra money): ☐ Outlines ☐ Nightlines ☐ En La Vida
FREE voice-mail number (phone responses only!) ☐ I Do NOT want voice box #

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Classified
rates (\$10
for 1
month, 3
months
\$27).

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION— MUST BE FILLED OUT:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Signature: _____

Cost of the ad:

1st 20 words, 2 months FREE
Additional words 25¢ ea. \$ _____
MailBox # (\$6 per month) \$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____
Send to: BLACKLINES/Outlines, 1115 W.
Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

the Network. Tiffany (708)
686-7329. **NLBox 998**

Men

Yellow hankey slave wanted for video and beer meetings, any age, must be French active. SEND phone. **NLBox 295 (5)**

In search of man, 20's to 30's wanting his legs massaged for hours at a time. **Todd, PO Box 2211, Aurora, IL 60507 (5)**

GBM ISO GM versatile for LTR phone/photo gets immediate response. No drugs, alcoholics, hustlers need respond. Ready to Love? **NLBox 287**

News flash: This Latino 35, passionate, hairy, wants to meet BM plus, light skinned, bald head, as tall as 6'4", hung, pas-

sionate. I'll not disappoint you. **NL Box 293 (5)**

BM loves Latinos. I'm 35, very attractive, lean, HIV+, healthy, hairy, fit, hung, uncut, top seeking rugged bottom, especially Ricans. **Voice 52505 (5)**

GBM ISO GM versatile for LTR. Phone/photo get immediate response. No drugs, alcoholics, hustlers need respond. Ready to love? **NLBox 287**

Turn about. GWM, 50, mostly a top seeks a mostly bottom guy, any race, under 40, interested in receiving AND sometimes giving TT, S&M, CBT, WS, B&D and more. Light to heavy. Curious and beginners wel-

come. **NLBox 285 (5)**

Attractive GBM, 34. Seeks GBM/GHM tops to meet. Enjoys a variety of things. Not into bars/drug scene. Please write. **NLBox 279 (4)**

GWPM, 6'1", 165#, 45/y/o, athletic in shape, attractive. Enjoys the usual things. Looking for similar, any race, with sense of humor to share the journey. **NLBox 277 (5)**

Passionate and horny GWM 40 5'8" 145, into massage, oral, top ISO Buddy (any race) for hot times and possible LTR. Write **AP Box 481044, Niles, IL 60714 (5)**

Love, romance, friendship, endless passionate

nights, dreams to share and more, nice looking latino 26, 6', 150. ISO black tall thin guy for serious relationship, you will not be disappointed. **NLBox 269**

Mix It Up

Attractive straight BM, 5'10" 185# 40ish looking for attractive BF/Bif 21-35 brickhouse, independent, employed, no drugs. Send photo, phone, letter **PO Box 198914 Chgo, 60619 (5)**

GWM wants to massage a black lesbian's legs for hours at a time. No sex. **Todd, PO Box 2211, Aurora 60507. (5)**

Want to come out and play? Do you lay in bed thinking of what you could be doing if only you had a male partner? Do you have a fantasy you want to try? Are you bored thinking of having a casual affair? Lets talk. I'm SWM 36 5'11" 160 #, clean and discreet. **(708) 241-0364 or Jay .S. 1131 Lake St. #246, Oak Park, IL 60301.**

XXX

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NEW STAFF ATTORNEY: Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund seeks staff attorney in Midwest office in Chicago to do lesbian, gay and HIV-related civil rights work and public education. Applicants should have significant litigation experience (4+ years preferred); excellent legal writing and speaking skills; demonstrated commitment to lesbian, gay and PWA rights. Experience working in communities of color preferred. Salary from low 40's, DOE; excellent benefits. Cover letter, resume, and writing sample by 4/15/98 to: Patricia Logue, LLDEF, 11 E. Adams, Suite 1008, Chicago, IL 60603.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a leading lesbian/gay and

HIV/AIDS legal advocacy organization, seeks full-time administrative assistant or legal secretary for 7-person Midwest Office. Must have excellent clerical skills (including WordPerfect 7.0), telephone and filing and preferably legal secretarial or paralegal background. Intake, database and/or on-line experience a plus. Compensation: from mid-\$20's DOE. Excellent benefits. Resume and references by 4/15/98 to Patricia M. Logue, LLDEF, 11 E. Adams, Suite 1008, Chicago, IL 60603.

SHORT ORDER cooks and bakers wanted. Experience a plus. (773) 529-3999.

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COSMETIC SURGERY — BIG IS IN! Featuring Penis/Pectoral Enlargement, Curvature Correction, Liposuction, Lip, Face/Nose/Eye Reshaping. Board Certified Surgeons. Financing available. Call **800-853-4819** for free brochures and your \$1000 discount. Some insurances accepted. (4/98)

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WhuzzUp this week in D.C.? Men's Event & Info Line in the Black Gay Capitol: 1-900-963-0230 (\$1.95 per min). *** ALSO TRY **MALEBOX MAGAZINE:** The Intimate Opinions, Experiences & Emotions of Black Gay Men \$24/12 issues (hardcopy only). More info: Malebox2@aol.com

PHONE LINES

LEATHERMAN! Meet on ManPark! Call now guys are waiting To talk to you! Try it FREE! 18+ use code 7980. **(773) 728-4044.** (11/98)

GAY PERSONALS! Call the Confidential Connection! Record/Listen/Respond FREE! 18+ use code 7802. **(773) 378-7307, (630) 705-7440, (312) 558-5400, (847) 776-5777, (773) 506-3811.** (10/98)

J/O BUDDIES! Meet on Club VoiceMale! Browse, Match, Chat! Try it FREE! 18+ use code 7803. **(773) 769-4441.** (10/98)

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PENIS, NIPPLE enlargement Professional vacuum pumps or surgical enlargement. Gain 1-3". Permanent, safe. Enhance erection. For FREE Brochures call: **Dr. Joel Kaplan, (312) 409-1950.** Latest enlargement information **1-900-976-PUMP** (\$2.95 min.). (4/98)

OUT! GUIDE OUT

The **OUT! Resource Guide**, published by **Lambda Publications**, is now out! Call **(773) 871-7610.**

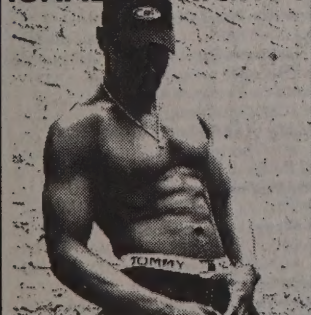
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AIDS WALK FROM 6

several were contacted and invited to do so by AIDS Walk—via form letter. Typically, board members are solicited personally, according to Ogletree, who is executive director of a mainstream agency and sits on several boards herself. She blamed AIDS Walk's institutional racism and the board's "arrogance" for the limited outreach.

"We've fought for people of color [to be] on the board. ... [Yet] my concern is still around [their] timeline," Ogletree explained. She is concerned that the AIDS Walk strategic plan's next stage, the June introduction of new member agencies and/or a new funding model comes too late in the fundraising cycle, at the end of a fiscal year (the Walk is scheduled for Sept. 27).

On March 17, the PCC issued an official statement. PCC spokespersons Nikita Buckhoy, Martin J. Gonzalez, Renae Ogletree and Robert Schultz III (also a **BLACKLINES** reporter) began by "congratulat[ing] the AIDS Walk Board on taking action on one of the concerns articulated by POC last year."

The statement went on to say that "We are hopeful that the new board members, in addition to the technical expertise they bring, will also provide critical information and insight relative to the needs and interests of communities of color. ...

"There are still critical issues remaining that the AIDS Walk board must address. Of the utmost importance is that of 'Partnership.' When will the AIDS Walk expand to include agencies led by and servicing people of color from the South and West side communities? The Board of AIDS Walk must initiate a process which ensures that proceeds from the Walk directly benefit the communities of color in Chicago. The current projected timeline of June 1 is not sufficient nor timely. We urge the Board to continue its 'fast track' and quickly announce the selection criteria and process for new partner agencies."



World View: World Wide Web

by Andrew Davis

A Matter of Hate, Part II

As I mentioned in my last column, hate is definitely thriving out there in cyberspace. Protected by the First Amendment, organizations are posting all sorts of sites that attack and, in the process, serve to heighten fears about certain demographic groups. Listed below are a few of the anti-gay sites out there, but be forewarned: some of the items I discuss are jaw-droppingly brutal.

▼ The American Guardian (<http://www.thundernet.org>) claims that it has recently completed an extensive research on the homosexual agenda. Among its hyperlinks are "Perversion That Effects Children," which include homosexuality along with adultery and pedophilia.

▼ Cyber Nationalist Group (<http://www.crusader.net/texts/cng/>) has a major area devoted to "The Homosexual Threat." Just what links are here? Try "Homosexuals do NOT support

open debate," "How to raise a child to NOT be homosexual," and "How homosexuals use AIDS."

▼ S.T.R.A.I.G.H.T./Society to Remove All Immoral Godless Homosexual Trash (<http://www.melvig.org/mel/MELVIG.HTM>) tries to justify its positions by wrapping itself in religion: "[w]e must remember that it was God who gave [gays] over to a depraved mind and it is only He who can save them."

▼ Finally, no anti-gay list would be complete without Reverend Fred Phelps and the Westboro Baptist Church with its God Hates Fags site (<http://www.godhatesfags.com/>), complete with an upside-down American flag. Not only is there a page that lists "fag churches," but there's also a page devoted to pickets—including one in Baghdad, Iraq! If President Clinton ever needed a reason to bomb that country...

It is my fervent hope that you (the reader) will review these sites—not only for a dose of reality but for the learning and discussion it will spur in yourself and others.

This series will conclude next month with an overview of racist sites. Let me know your thoughts! E-mail me at geminil@nwu.edu.

▼▼▼▼

Feel free to e-mail me at geminil@nwu.edu.

CLEVELAND BLACK PRIDE WEB SITE

Cleveland Black Pride is pleased to announce its newly redesigned web site. The site is fully functional, with more information available about the group and its activities. It can be reached by pointing your NETSCAPE browser to:

<http://bbs2.rmrc.net/cbpi>

The theme of the site is "Pride Inside." In that vein, they are excited to bring readers three articles gathered from noteworthy scholars that promote deeper thought and consideration in addition to being highly informative.

The first is "Names Can Also Hurt You," by psychology historian Dr. Gary Brooks of St. Francis Xavier in Nova Scotia. The article traces the history of some of the names that LGBT call ourselves and are called by others.

The second article, "Gays: Guardians of the Gates" is an interview with author and lecturer Malidoma Some (pronounced So May') conducted by

Mens' Voices editor, Bert Hoff. Dr. Some is a member of the Dagara ethnic group located in Burkina Faso in Western Africa—a people who treasure "lesbian" and "gay" members of their society as "gatekeepers" between our world and other worlds. It is a Dagara belief that they are integral to keeping the various worlds in harmony so that civilization is not destroyed.

Same-sex relationships are not unique to the Dagara. There are many ethnic groups throughout Africa that are far more tolerant than the West. In "Homosexuality' In Africa: Issues and Debates," Dr. Deborah P. Amory, assistant professor of anthropology at SUNY-Purchase, surveys the current research taking place in various parts of the African continent on same-sex behaviors and how they translate into Western ideologies and identification with the terms "gay" and "lesbian."

There is information about some of Cleveland Black Pride's upcoming events, including a bus trip to D.C. Black Gay Pride in May.

F.Y.I. Resources

Predominantly Black Gay Clubs

CLUB ESCAPE, M.W.D. 1530 E. 75th St.	773-667-6454
CLUB INTA'S 308 W. Erie, Girls Night Thurs.	312-664-6595
CLUB INTIMUS (only Sat. 9p-3a)	
312 W. Randolph, W.D.V.	312-901-1703
GENERATOR 306 N. Halsted, D. MW	312-243-8889
JEFFERY PUB 7041 S. Jeffrey, MW, D, 4	773-363-8555
CLUBHOUSE AT CONVENT MW,D.	
1529 Armitage, MONDAYS 11p-4a	773-395-8660

OTHER Clubs OF INTEREST

BERLIN 954 Belmont, MW, V, 4, S	773-348-4975
BIG CHICKS 5024 N. Sheridan, S/G, WM, 11a-2a/3a Sa	773-728-5511
BUDDIES' REST/BAR 3301 Clark, MW, R	773-477-4066
CHICAGO EAGLE, M.L., 5015 N. Clark	773-728-0050
CLUB INTA'S 308 W. Erie, Women Thurs., Men Sun.	312-664-6595
CIRCUIT 3641 N. Halsted, Salsa, etc.	773-325-2233
CLUBHOUSE PLAYERS 13126 S. Western,	
Blue Island, M,D,E,R,G,S.	708-389-6688
FUSION 3631 N. Halsted, MW, V, D, E, 4	773-975-6622
GIRLBAR, 2625 N. Halsted, W,D	773-871-4210
LITTLE JIM'S 3501 N. Halsted, M, 4	773-871-6116
MAN'S COUNTRY 5017 N. Clark, M, B	773-878-2069
MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE	773-477-8362
RAINBOW ROOM 4530 N. Lincoln, WM,D	773-271-4378
ROSCOE'S 3354-6 N. Halsted, MW, D, V, E, Cafe 773-281-3355	
SIDETRACK 3349 N. Halsted, M, V	773-477-9189
SPIN, Halsted & Belmont, MW, D	773-327-7711
TEMPTATIONS 10235 W. Grand, Franklin Park, W, D,V, E, 4, (5a Fri/Sat)	847-455-0008

Resources

AA/Newtown Alano Club	773-529-0321
Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays	773-493-3848
Adodi African-American men	312-458-9584
Affinity, creating a South Side community center	
P.O. Box 496002, Chicago, IL 60649	312-409-7609
Affinity & Bro. II Bro. Youth	773-288-6900, 312-409-7609, x3
African American Womyn's Alliance	
P.O. Box 198573, Chgo 60619-8573	773-731-0279
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Bro2Bro@juno.com, meets at MOIP, 1255 S. Wabash	
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Chgo Gay & Lesbian Marching Band	(773) 743-5738
Church of the Open Door FAX (773) 778-0178	773-778-3030
Black lesbisay/trans/heterosexual Church, 5954 S. Albany	
The Committee, 2300 N. Clybourn, #32, 60614	773-235-0295
Greater Chicago Committee, P.O. Box 146642, 60614-6642	
Healthline 312-661-9153, prevent.773-674-0429	312-670-9660
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Howard Brown Health Center	773-871-5777
Imani Umoja, Chicago Afric.-Amer BI/Gay men	773-907-8993
Last House on the Block G&L in recovery	773-373-0024
Lesbian Community Cancer Project	773-561-4662
Les Femmes Amies	312-232-0787
Men of All Colors Together/Chicago, PO Box	
408922, 60640-8922	312-409-6916
Minority Outreach Intervention Proj, FAX 312-986-0928	
1255 S. Wabash, Suite 2-S, 60605	312-986-0661
National Black L&G Leadership Forum	202-483-6786
Onyx/Chicago leather/men, 1340 Irving, #188, 60613	
PAC Social Club, South Side for mature lesbians of African Descent, PACSOCIALC@aol.com	
Parents, Friends & Family of L&G/South Side	773-488-7711
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Yahimba, 1012-1/2 Dodge, Evanston, IL 60202	847-328-7715
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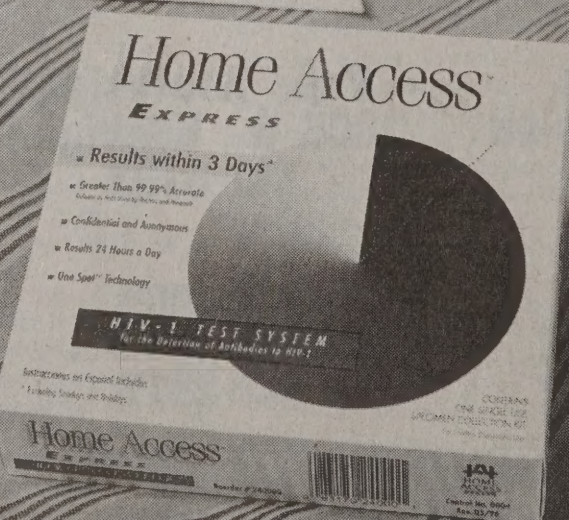
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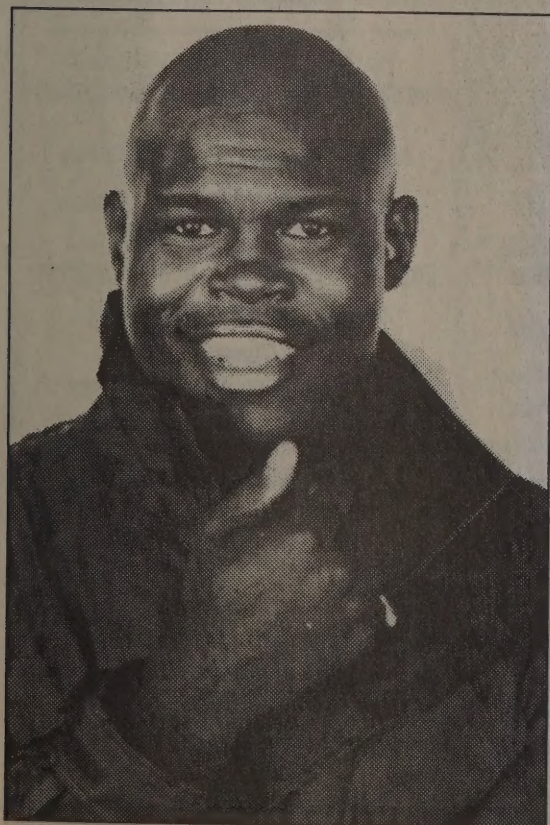
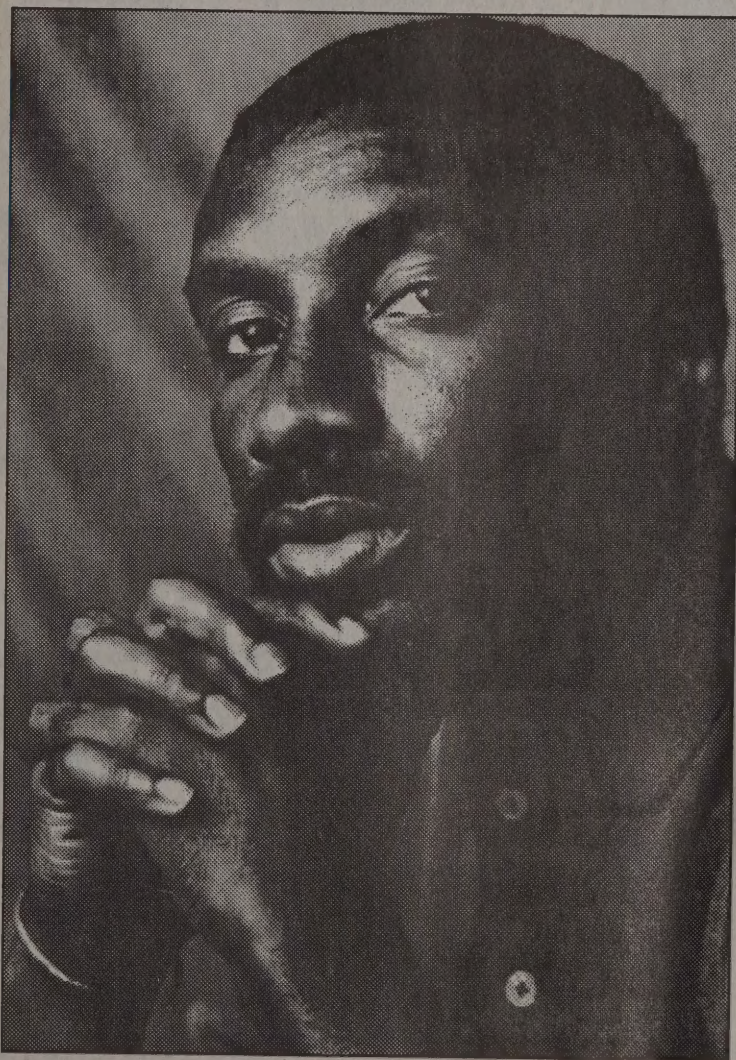
BLACK

LINES

MAY 1998, Vol. 3, No. 4 Free/\$2 outside Chicago EXPRESSIONS FROM BLACK GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDERED LIFE

STEVE LANGLEY

A Real Read and theatre Q
present a staged reading of the
trilogy "Never Letting Go"
by Steve Langley (right)
See page 8 for details.



BYRON STINGILY

Getting Mighty Real With This
Dance Music Sensation (left).
See page 23 for an interview.

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BLACK LINES

May, 1998

Volume 3, Number 4

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Published by Lambda Publications, publishers
of: OUTLINES, Nightlines Weekly, En La Vida,
OUT! Resource Guide, CLOUT! Business Report

DEADLINES:

Editorial: 5th of each month

Advertising: the 10th

AVAILABLE LAST WED. Each MONTH

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LAMBDA PUBLICATIONS,
1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D,
CHICAGO, IL 60657 USA.

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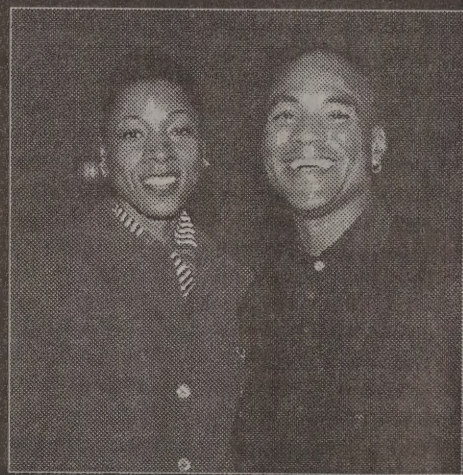
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DEADLINE is the 5th of
each month for articles,
calendar, photos, art,
poetry, viewpoints, etc.

Material used on a
space-available basis.



Coretta Scott King was the featured speaker
at this year's Lambda Legal Defense Bon
Foster luncheon March 31; see p. 18-19.
BELOW: Marjorie Hill and Phill Wilson,
keynote speakers at Unity; see p. 12-15.



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Editorial

by LaJaunessee
Jordan

Renae Ogletree said, "She has gorgeous legs!" several weeks before she came to Chicago. All of the womyn who had seen her out-of-town thought she was brilliant, communicated her point well and was beautiful—the men did, too. The day of the event, Renae told me, "I want Marjorie to have a good time while she's here." I've noticed that when Renae Ogletree says "Jump!" people say, "How high!" So far be it for me not to take Renae's statement seriously, meaning I was charged with the task of helping assure that Dr. Marjorie J. Hill, one of the keynote speakers at the Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays (CBLG) Unity Conference, had a great time—a task I was most pleased to be a part of.

I introduced myself, since we had only talked on the phone. She said, "Your reputation precedes you." I guess she had heard about how sweet I am. She stood to take a photo with me. I thought,



"Wow! She's tall!" And that's what I verbalized—not the greatest first words. I was back at my table and realized I forgot to see if Renae was right. Mary Morten gave her a great introduction and I was caught up in the moment. I forgot again. Her words were on the money, as evidenced by many equivalents to "Amen!" throughout and after her address. After most had left the luncheon she still had a series of individuals waiting to talk with her—no doubt praising her.

There were other highlights of the CBLG Unity Conference. Those who didn't leave work early or didn't just take the day off as Lesbian/Gay/Bi/Trans Unity Day—a good reason to become a Chicago holiday—missed C.C. Carter facilitate the Womyn's Institute: Sisters, Can We Talk? From The

Political To The Personal. Donna Rose gave a no-holds-barred healthcare presentation in which she discussed the good, the bad, the ugly in understandable terms to help save some lives and antibiotics.

As usual, Pat Mc Combs educated and entertained in her Female Fetishes and Fantasies workshop. Womyn are still talking about it! Pat even provided something for (in her words) "oral gratification," after the workshop. Some womyn left early and missed out.

Nationally known poet Cheryl Clarke—who was at the conference courtesy of the Literary Exchange and Affinity—presented the address at the welcome reception on Friday. Boris Powell made a transformation before our eyes. He then wore a mini-skirt and platform boots so high, I would have fallen off of them. He wowed the crowd with his performance singing praises to many. And Amirah Watkins-Brown graced us with a couple of a cappella tunes.

Felicia Thomas presented the workshop on African-American lesbians networking. She warned the group to avoid "toxic people" and "emotional vampire suckers." She gave many helpful tips on successful networking—knowing what one brings to the table and what one expects to gain. Alden Bell of ADODI led an emotional and memorable closing, just as he did at the YAHIMBA Conference.

If you came to the conference but didn't come to the dinner/dance or if you didn't come to the conference at all, you missed a truly great time. Don't make that mistake next year! You missed heavenly music by "Da" Fellows, Mary Morten's film *Leaving the Shadows Behind*, and the Joel Hall Dancers. You missed the best DJing I've ever heard

(including hearing my personal favorite—"Follow Me"). DJ Lora Branch worked the whole dance for nothing! Nada! Free! Remember her kindness and greatness when considering a DJ for your next event—but pay her. She's gotta earn a living.

If you weren't at the dance, you missed C.C. Carter calling the moves during the Electric Slide. And a personal high point for me was watching C.C. and Marjorie Hill practice a fast version of the electric slide on the sidelines of the dance floor. And then when they were perfect (as if they weren't already) the two of them and a few others became the main attraction on the dance floor. I had a dance with that perfect duo—in addition to solo dances with each (both of whom I have a thang for) and C.C. said I should write a poem about it. It would be for mature audiences only.

I danced almost every dance. It was therapy for me. Yet, I think about the woman who was there but refused to go into the the dance area saying, "Nobody would dance with me anyway." I think about another woman who sent me a card talking about her isolation and loneliness and thanking me for inviting her to join our group. She said she had a good time and finally felt a sense of community. I think about the name of the conference. I think we need to think about sisterhood and brotherhood a bit more often, and reach out to those who may have no one reaching out to them.

If you didn't stay until the end of the dance, you missed what Renae Ogletree did on the last song—which I thought exclusively belonged to Sharon Mylrea—and what everyone did in response to Renae's actions. Great keynotes! Great workshops! Great planning! Great dance! See you there next year.



ABL comes to Chicago

Allison Hodges, president and co-founder of Three Point, Inc., has been named general manager of the American Basketball League's new Chicago franchise. Hodges is the wife of former NBA and Chicago Bulls star Craig Hodges. Both Hodges helped bring the ABL Chicago team here—because the NBA has continued to ignore the potential for a women's team here. The team will start this fall. Call (312) 413-5740. PICTURED: Craig Hodges and Allison (left) welcome Adrienne Goodson (2nd from left) and Olympian Cathy Boswell (right) to their new home at the UIC Pavilion.

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SATURDAY, MAY 9 AT 7:45 P.M.

Followed by a question-and-answer session with the film makers

SUNDAY, MAY 10 AT 3:30 P.M.

Followed by a question-and-answer session with the film makers

SUNDAY, MAY 10 AT 6:30 P.M.

Followed by panel discussion with the film makers, author Liane Clorfene Casten, physician Rachel Rubin, and LCCP board president Jackie Anderson, moderator.

SUNDAY, MAY 17 AT 2:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, MAY 17 AT 4:00 P.M.

DESSERT RECEPTION WITH THE FILM MAKERS
TO BENEFIT THE LESBIAN COMMUNITY CANCER PROJECT

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(Following the screening and question-and-answer session)
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THE NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEWS

Reggie's foot-in-mouth disease ...

Football star Reggie White (who announced in late April that he would retire due to back pain—and changed his mind 24 hours later, saying next year would be his last) is also still a star on the corporate sponsor fields. While **Campbell's Soup** and **Nike** are re-evaluating his endorsement deals after White spouted anti-gay and racial stereotypes in a speech to Wisconsin legislators March 25, neither company has committed to withdrawing his deals. CBS news was considering White for an analyst job, but now they are backing off. The Green Bay Packers player, who is also an ordained clergyman, used stereotypes to show which "gifts" the different races bring to humankind. White even told Fox news he agreed with former CBS football analyst **Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder**, who was fired in 1988 after saying Black athletes were better because they had been "bred to be that way because of his thigh size and big size."

And White was expected in Ypsilanti, Mich., April 30 to protest a city law banning anti-gay discrimination—gospel singers **Angie** and **Debbie Winans** were also expected at the rally (they released a song

against gays and lesbians).

In March, White accused the U.S. of going away from God by allowing homosexuality to "run rampant." White said, "homosexuality is a decision, it's not a race. People from all different ethnic backgrounds live in this lifestyle. But people from all different ethnic backgrounds also are liars and cheaters and malicious and back-stabbing. ... I've often had people ask me, 'Would you allow a homosexual to be your friend?' Yes I will. And the reason is because I know that that person has problems. If I can minister to those problems, I will. But the Bible strictly speaks against it." He then explained that God had created different races for different reasons. Blacks, he said, are gifted at worship and celebration, while whites are good at organization. "Hispanics were gifted in family structure, and you can see a Hispanic person, and they can put 20, 30 people in one home," he said, adding that the Japanese and other Asians are inventive and "can turn a television into a watch." Assembly Speaker **Scott Jensen** had invited White, who is also an ordained minister, to speak about his community work. Jensen said that sexual orientation is biologically based, and not a decision, GLAAD said.

Contact: Ron Wolf, General Manager, Green Bay Packers, 1265 Lombardi Ave., Green Bay, WI, 54304, e-mail via WWW: http://www.packers.com/fans/ask_the_packers/; Bob Hartlan, Owner, Green Bay Packers, P.O. Box 10628, Green Bay, WI 54307, phone: (920) 496-5700; Gene Upshaw, President, NFL Players Assoc., 2021 L Street NW, Washington, DC 20036, phone: (202) 463-2200; National Football League (NFL), nfltech@aeromail.com; Consumer Relations, Campbell's Soup Corp., Campbell's Place, Box 26B, Camden, NJ 08103, phone: (800) 257-8443, <http://www.campbellkitchen.com/response1.asp>; Sean McManus, Sports President, CBS Sports, 524 West 57th St., New York, NY 10019-2902, fax: (212) 975-4063, <http://www.cbs.com/navbar/fedback.html>

♦♦♦♦

The National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum responded quickly White's comments, calling for an e-mail and letter-writing campaign urging Campbell Soup Company to sever its ties with Reggie White as a spokesperson for its company. "The remarks are not only offensive, but dangerous to African-American lesbian and gay people," said Jubi Headley, NBLGLF Executive Director. "Here's a popular sports figure, a celebrity and even a hero to millions. Young people view him as a role model. How will these comments impact black gay and lesbian youth? What message is he sending to young heterosexual people about the civil rights of our community?" "If there was ever a 'cause and effect' formula to show why hate crimes are rising, why suicide rates among gay youth are rising, this could be it," Headley said. "And according to a recent CDC report, the suicide rate among African-American youth has risen dramatically. We're not talking about image here; we're talking about our safety and our lives."

German lesbian may stay with Namibian lover

The High Court of Namibia granted a German lesbian residency April 3 based on her long-term relationship with her Namibian lover and her contributions to Namibian society. The ruling overturned a decision by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In her lawsuit, plaintiff **Liz Frank** argued that the ministry's Immigration Board had violated her constitutional rights to equality, privacy, freedom from discrimination and protection of her family.

Namibian President **Sam Nujoma** has denounced gays on at least two occasions. In April of 1997 he said homosexuals "should not tamper or disturb our civil society by coming outdoors to do their business." In December of 1996 he said: "Homosexuals must be condemned and rejected in our society. All necessary steps must be taken to combat all influences that are influencing us and our children in a negative way."

—Rex Wockner

ACT UP! SF & Panther Bobby Seale join forces

ACT UP! San Francisco was joined by Bobby Seale, founder of the Black Panther Party, in April for World Animal Laboratory Week.

ACT UP! stated: "Seale will be our guest to tell activists how the Panthers organized and why they were successful and how we can be too. Dr. Ray Greek, a former animal researcher who now seeks to inform the public about the fallacy of animal research and how such research delays the process of finding cures for human illness" also addressed the group.

Michael Bellefountaine, of ACT UP! San Francisco, a 32-year-old living with AIDS, spoke about his opposition to animals used in AIDS research.

AFC gala

Disco sensation **Gloria Gaynor** did not disappoint the more than 1,000 people gathered for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago annual Song & Dance. She sang her "I Will Survive," along with some newer material. BELOW, also at the AFC gala Saturday, Rae



Lewis-Thornton & Kenneth Thornton. Rae has done extensive education around women with AIDS—she herself has been living with HIV for several years. Photos by Tracy Baim



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- ◆ develop a team action plan that will respond to the educational needs of the total church congregation.
- ◆ dialogue and network with other West Side church leaders in addressing this serious health problem.
- ◆ candidly discuss the implications of homophobia on community health.

Other co-hosts: Mars Hill M.B. Church, Prevention Partnership,
Stone Temple M.B. Church & United Faith Tabernacle M.B. Church.

For more info, call **Brenetta Howell Barrett**, Chief Operating Officer at Pathfinders, at **(773) 626-1443**.

Rocks Party Controversy The Saga Continues

by Robert Schultz

"There is nothing to steal but a lot of work," was the summation offered by Renae Ogletree, a production team veteran for the Rocks, when assessing the move by the trio of Marc Loveless, Michael O'Connor, and Lloyd Kelly to lead production of Chicago's unofficial Black Lesbian/trans Pride.

The production team put together by Clubhouse Productions continues to plan for the event also. For the last four of the eight years of Clubhouse Productions' involvement, lesbian/gay/trans community organizations participated by offering services from voter registration to HIV prevention information at the Rocks.

The question remains who will ultimately be responsible to the lesbian/gay/trans public and

the Park District for the event's success or failure. The logistical preparations, the leveraging of sufficient resources and the safety of the anticipated crowd of several thousand people who gather should be the primary concern of any Rocks producer.

In January 1998 Marc Loveless submitted an application to the Park District. BLACKLINES obtained from Loveless a copy of a letter dated Jan. 16 and signed by Gene Lee, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Special Events, stating, "Your Chicago Park District Permit request has been granted." The letter continues to list additional requirements to meet before the Park District will issue a permit to Loveless. These additional requirements would apply to any group. To receive

the permit, a \$4,410 user fee, a \$1,654 security deposit, and a \$2 million certificate of insurance must be filed with the Park District by May 28. If the fees and documents are not submitted by that date the application will be withdrawn. Loveless claims his acknowledgment letter from the Park District to be the actual permit. BLACKLINES filed a Freedom of Information Request with the Park District to ascertain the seriousness of competing efforts to produce the Rocks event. The Park District was unable to respond to the request for copies of applications or the disposition thereof by press time.

Citing motivations of a desire to make the event a true community event and not dependent upon the efforts of any one lesbian/gay/trans entertainment business and to establish the "apparatus" to do so, Loveless' breakaway group has been meeting with about a dozen people who have attended one or more meetings. They want to become a not-for-profit organization to give the event its own viability apart from any business. At the time Loveless filed his Special Event application he stated his organization didn't have a not-for-profit status. Except for one individual, no one Loveless named as his team has prior experience producing the Rocks event. One individual has been named by both groups as part of their teams, and another is still evaluating whether to help. Loveless' group has been meeting for more than a month and has a standing invitation to the community to become involved at their weekly meetings on Thursdays. The meetings are held at 141 West Jackson, #240; (312) 315-3128.

Last year Loveless and O'Connor were among the people who produced the Rocks. However, every key member of last year's production team cited specific incidents related to the actions of Loveless and O'Connor that impeded the collective progress of the effort. Loveless and O'Connor confirmed many of the incidents

but offered their own story. Due to the rocky relationship created by Loveless and O'Connor, many of last year's production team are adamant about not wanting to work under Loveless and O'Connor's leadership. Individuals who are veterans of last year's production team say they lack the confidence in Loveless and O'Connor's competence to produce the Rocks event. Last year's production team believes that Loveless and O'Connor's resentment of their limited roles is the reason why Loveless and O'Connor have taken their actions. According to Bob Yeaworth of Clubhouse, last year the production team had to be persuaded to accept Loveless, and O'Connor's limited role due to the history from prior year's events the two brought to the table.

When interviewed Loveless and O'Connor were preoccupied with their ability to bring politicians to the Rocks event. Members from last year's production team are concerned about the overall comfort of the crowd, sufficient resources for the event, minimal conflict between the police and the crowd, and a range of activities for the varied crowd.

The oral history of the Rocks event is that it began as a reaction to the greater lesbian/gay community's racism. However, Yeaworth revealed due to the cooperation between the Rocks' organizers and the Pride Parade committee porta potties are contracted from the same vendor that supplies the Parade.

The gathering at the Rocks is a more than 20-year tradition. In the 1980s Chicago Lesbian and Gay Hall of Fame inductee and Grammy-award-winning DJ Frankie Knuckles began to spin house music for those gathered. In the current decade Clubhouse Productions continued Knuckles' tradition.

Clubhouse Productions announced their planning team of Charles Nelson, Renae Ogletree, Borris Powell, Dana Powell, Tut, and Shelton Watson. Call (312) 409-2728 for further information.

A Real Read and theatre Q to Present A Staged Reading at Gerber/Hart

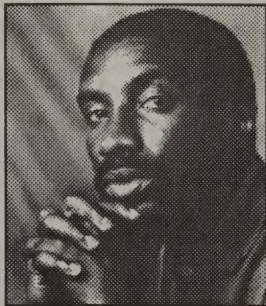
A Real Read and theatre Q are joining to present a staged reading at the Gerber/Hart Library and Archives on Monday, May 18.

A trilogy of plays, *Never Letting Go*, by playwright Steve

Langley will be read. Under the direction of A Real Read's Artistic Director, Byron Stewart, the plays to be staged are *Two Cotton Towels*, in which monogamous lovers find themselves in a bathhouse; *Gone Fishin'*, dealing with the mourning that a father goes through over the death of his son, a jock, who has taken a big secret to his grave; and *The Fitting Room*, about a bored and lonely man who goes shopping and finds more than a new pair of jeans.

A resident of Washington, D.C., Langley (who will be in town for the May performance) is the author of *Seoul Food*, which was a co-winner of the Newspaper Project Award presented by the African Continuum Theatre Co. in D.C. Langley is also a singer-songwriter. His composition, *In This Land*, is the title song on an album by the acclaimed vocal group Sweet Honey in the Rock. He has toured with the gay and lesbian group The Flirtations, was featured in Marlon Riggs' award-winning Black gay film *Tongues Untied*, and has sung back-up for Nona Hendryx.

"The Stories of Our Lives..." reading series will be presented at Gerber/Hart on Monday evenings at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6. For Gerber/Hart members with valid ID cards, tickets are \$3. Call (773) 271-9287 or (312) 458-9184.



Steve Langley

UIC Hosts Yale Prof's Speech on Race & AIDS

by P.J. Engelbrecht

Yale University assistant professor Cathy Cohen, Ph.D., guest lectured April 17 at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Cohen reviewed material detailed in her book-in-progress, *The AIDS Crisis in Black and White: Black Community Response* (University of Chicago Press).

About 20 students and faculty attended the presentation sponsored by the UIC Department of African-American Studies. UIC assistant professor Barbara Ransby, Ph.D., introduced Cohen. The two academics met in graduate school, and Cohen is the god-mother of Ransby's children.

A political scientist, Cohen is co-director of the Yale Center for the Study of Race, Inequality and Policy. She's also a community activist who helped organize the Black Nation: Queer Nation Conference, and she sits on the boards of the Audre Lorde Project and Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press.

Cohen is widely recognized as an "up and coming" young scholar. She was awarded a Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship to further her doctoral work at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. She co-edited the recent anthology *Women Transforming Politics* and frequently collaborates with Michael Dawson on projects analyzing African-American politics.

AIDS is "an umbrella issue," said Cohen, because the epidemic's progress both reflects certain social conditions in communities of color and affects community conditions.

AIDS is the leading cause of death among African-Americans aged 25-44. Blacks account for 31% of new AIDS cases nationwide, while

totalling just 12% of the U.S. population. Rising HIV-infection rates for African-Americans are already higher than for any other ethnic group, and they're rising faster than most other sub-group rates, including that of white gay men.

"Why did we not see a more forceful response among Black leaders and organizations?" Cohen asked rhetorically. "We might expect massive mobilization ... [but instead, we've seen] a slow and passive response to AIDS in the Black community." Cohen thinks Black community and religious leaders have been overly tentative and too non-confrontational in dealing with AIDS.

Cohen pointed out that "Black gay [and lesbian] activists have consistently led the fight ... particularly ... in the first stage of the epidemic." No one else stepped up. However, Cohen discounted the notion that the wider African-American community is completely "averse to anything gay or lesbian," even while recognizing that Black homophobes do exist.

Cohen allows that a "supposedly more pervasive" Black homophobia may have limited the Black response to AIDS, compared to the white response, but she's found that homophobia alone cannot account for AIDS' spread. She also discredits other scapegoat factors, such as "limited [financial and social service] resources" and preoccupying, community-wide "inordinate suffering."

"Rarely is an issue so neglected by the leadership of [a] group" as is African-American AIDS, Cohen exclaimed. She pinned much of the blame on the (heterosexual) Black middle class. The Af-Am

community has experienced a "growing [economic] polarization," she said, and that division has combined with stringent "policing of identities" and the historical concept of the entire community's "linked fate" to foster "a reluctance to 'own' AIDS [because it] threatens the hard-won mobility ... of the Black middle class."

That is, the African-American community presents a remarkably "united perspective" as its public face, especially compared to white community behavior. But "tensions arise out of the multiplicity of identities" that actually exist among Blacks, according to Cohen, and "AIDS ... symbolizes conflictual cross-cutting of Black politics ... call[ing] into question the role of 'linked fate'."

Of course, Cohen vigorously critiqued the truism that young Black men "learn" homosexuality in prison or the military, picking up those evil ways "outside the community," and she cited EBONY magazine's "invocation of 'the dreaded bisexual'" to illustrate how the belief maintains currency.

Cohen described many Black leaders' inclination to focus their recognition of HIV/AIDS and most AIDS care resources on "innocent victims," HIV+ African-American "women of child-bearing age" and children, rather than on gay men, prostitutes or IV drug users. Cohen attributes this phenomenon to the persistent fear of genocide.

It's easy to tell how Cohen would answer her own query, "who will be 'silenced' in the Black community?" Queers, poor people, those who do not fit the middle class mold, those who threaten the status quo and those whose 'image' might impede Black community progress toward prosperity. "Whose issues are important enough and broad enough to be included ... [and] to warrant community ownership?"

Cohen's analysis reveals an

GCC's Black BLACK Party

The Greater Chicago Committee's annual Black BLACK Party 4 is Friday, June 26, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at The VIX, 2814 N. Halsted.

Admission is \$10, which includes food, cash bar, and dancing. GCC asks guests to come in black or African attire to celebrate history.

Call (312) 670-9660. Or write GCC at P.O. Box 617602, Chicago, IL 60661.

Chicago's Pride Parade is Sunday, June 28.

African-American community "politics rooted in a unidimensional understanding" of both the community itself and the issues and problems deemed significant to it. She suggests that the situation must change.

Today, HIV, AIDS and African-American PWAs remain off the radar screen, but Cohen proposes that inevitably, the African-American community must respond to HIV/AIDS by shifting focus, by "building alternative institutions" rather than changing the minds of homophobic or disinterested leaders one minister at a time.

"Black officials have to say something. ... Traditional agencies have to do something," said Cohen. Indeed, all our public officials should heed her advice. "They [must] take on the mantle of transforming the issue" of HIV/AIDS from a political liability to a medical priority, or the worst-case fears might just come true.

The UIC African American Studies dept. is sponsoring the Black Radical Congress for activists and academics June 19-21. The Chicago Congress will be the first "united front" Black gathering to deal with gender, sexuality and homophobia, said Ransby, and featured speakers include Angela Davis, Barbara Smith and Evelyn Hammonds. Watch OUTLINES for more details as they become available.

CALENDAR

Wed., April 29

Log Cabin Republicans Gay Crossfire series: discussion of affirmative action, pros/cons. 7:45p, free. @ Merlo Library, 644 W Belmont. Coffee/social hr follows at the Melrose on Bdw. Info Charlie Mehler (773) 508-9065 or Ben Grzegorski (773) 327-3749.

Thursday, April 30

Club into presents "An Intimate Affair," the women's place to meet and greet—cuz girls just wanna have fun! Music by Chicago's hottest DJ, lavish buffet, private rooms available to rent, drink specials, valet pkg. Thursdays 8pm-Until. 308 W Erie. Info (312) 664-6595.

Columbia College Chicago Paul Robeson Memorial Film Festival, 5 Thurs eves in April. Today "Paul Robeson, International Man" mini-exhibit featuring items from Center for Black Music Research Archives opens; thru Sept 30. Free. @ CCC 623 S Wabash, 6th fl. Info/schedule (312) 344-7586.

Drive to the ROCKS '98 Discussion & planning meeting for 98 Black Pride celebration June 28, 6:30p. @ 141 W Jackson Blvd, Suite 240. Info Marc Loveless (773) 384-4356. Every Thursday.

Girlbar Thurs Meltdown, \$1 drafts, DJ Jim Lewis, no cover. (773) 871-4210.

South Carolina Gay & Lesbian Pride Movement PRIDE 98 in Myrtle Beach. (803) 272-3341; LRMBSC@aol.com.

The Vix "Bid Whist at Vix" begins 8pm, no cover. 2814 N Halsted. (773) 529-3999.

Women & Children First celebrates National Poetry Month with readings by Five Midwestern Poets: Alice Ryerson Hayes, Glenda Bailey-Mershon, Danice Kern, Linda Mitchell, & Y. Regina Whitmore. 7:30pm. 5233 Clark. (773) 769-9299.

Friday, May 1

May Day, May Day! (International Workers Day began in aftermath of Chicago's Haymarket Riots of 1886.)

Berlin Cosmix Pansexual Fri Dance Party, DJ Haus. 954 W Belmont. (773) 348-4975.

Chicago Cultural Center May is Blues Appreciation Month. "Birthdays @ the CCC"—today, blues legend Little Walter Jacobs gets big b-day present from harmonic player Scott Dirks, Joe

Campagna (guitar) & Mike Peters (bass). 1p, free. @ Randolph Cafe, CCC, 77 E Randolph. (312) 744-1426.

Del Corazon Mexican Performing Arts Festival celebrates the artistry, diversity & beauty found in Mexican culture, with events thru May. Call for schedule (312) 738-1503.

House of Blues Natalie Cole. **MACT Chicago (Men of All Colors Together)** board meets 6-7:30p, general monthly meet-



Authors Cornel West and Sylvia Hewlett May 27 the event is at Harold Washington Library and co-sponsored by Women & Children First Books.

ing 7:30-9p—Rev Gordon McCoy (from Resurrection MCC pastor) & his partner Eugene Thomas speak on "Our Story, Too: Black & White Gay Men in Scripture." @ Ann Sather's, 929 Belmont. (312) 409-6916.

Riviera "Ska Against Racism" show features Less Than Jake, The Toasters, Blue Meanies, Mustard Plug, 5 Iron Frenzy, Kemuri, Mike "Bee Lee" Park. 5p, \$16 Tix @ Metro boxoffice or (312) 559-1212.

Silver Images Film Festival screens jaunty flicks featuring so-called oldsters @ 30 sites thruout Chi thru May 15. (773) 881-6940; email siff@terranoval.org.

Unabridged Bookstore presents Will Fellows discussing his book, *Farm Boys: Lives of Gay Men from the Rural Midwest*. 7:30p. (773) 883-9119.

WomanMade Gallery Group exhibition "It's My Doll and I'll Do What I Want To..." opens tonight; not sanctioned by Mattel; juried by Jeanette May. AND "Censored Works" dumped fr concurrent Daley Center show of breast cancer art Reception 6-9p, free. Thru May 28. @ 1900 S Prairie (312) 328-0038

Saturday, May 2

4th "Who's That Girl?" A night too fabulous for words...features cast of Chi's 8 most innovative & talented Female Impersonators! Evening directly benefits Howard Brown Health Center's PWA Emergency Assistance Fund & Drug Reimbursement Prog. (773) 388-8997.

9th Bayard Rustin Community Breakfast for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender People of Color & Their Friends AIDS Action Committee & the BR Breakfast

Committee co-host; event features keynote speaker Hon Sabrina Sojourner (DC Dem Rep) & community speaker Alfredo Hernandez, plus entertainment by the Patterson Chorale & Emery Stephens. 10:30a lite buffet, 11:15a prog, free. @ John F Kennedy Library & Museum, Columbia Point, Mass. RSVP (617) 450-1644.

Barbara's Bookstore presents Joyce White, author of *Soul Food: Recipes & Reflections from African-american Churches*, shares stories, recipes & cuisine samples to nourish body & of, of course, soul.

Horizons Community Services "Spring Cleaning" high-end rummage sale is massive! Convert trash to treasure by "shopping Horizons" today & tomorrow! Info Rick Karlin (773) 472-6469 x257.

House of Blues The Waiters **Human Rights in Nigeria** is focus of Amnesty International event, incl noon screening of *Delta Force* (on Shell Oil's environmental destruction in Nigeria), 1p panel moderated by Nancy Bothne of Amnesty International, 3p demonstration against Shell Oil steps off down Broadway beg at Catalpa St. 12-4p. St. Ita's Church, 5500 N Broadway. (312) 427-2060.

Margie Adam in concert with **Artemis Singers** Northeastern Ill. University Auditorium, (773) 764-4465.

Notbush Miss Peaches celebrates her b-day w/ Absolute Diva, Dragtime 8:30p, w/ Simone Cezanne, Fuchsia Lame', Cherise Pretty, Angelique Munro, Shana Roberts & the newly crowned Miss Gay Illinois, Xviara Cuffey Colby Snow! 7201 Franklin, Forest Park, Ill. (708) 366-5117.

Rainbow Room Dance Saturdays, \$2 cover. 4530 N. Lincoln. (773) 271-4378.

Roseland Community Hospital recognizes National High Blood Pressure Month, targets high blood pressure esp in the African-American community, w/ FREE Health Fair 10a-2p today, @ 45 W 111th St. Info (773) 995-3013.

Sunday, May 3

Berlin Drag Race—amateur drag contest, emcee Vikki Spykkee, DJ Dion. (773) 348-4975.

Chicago Cultural Center Sunday Magazine arts variety show premieres, w/ hosts Rick Kogan & Brigid Murphy; this week featuring Ellington Dynasty, Tom Blackman, Neo-Futurists, & Maestro Subgum & the Whole. Noon-2p, free. @ Randolph Cafe, CCC, 77 E Randolph. (312) 744-1426.

Coalition for Positive Sexuality direct action/volunteer org for progressive sex ed & sexuality info meets 1st/3rd Suns, 6p @ 59 E Van Buren, 14th fl. Info (773) 604-1654.

Cotton Club KC's Entertainer of the Month contests (en route to entertainer of the yr), with \$400 grand prize in prelim-final May 31 & entry into ultimate E of the Yr contest w/ One Grand grand prize! Eve features Kereen Alexander, dance after the show w/ DJ Craig Cannon. Ops tonight, May 10 & 24; sign up 10p, showtime 11p. 1710 S Michigan. (312) 341-9737.

WACT (Womyn of All Colors/Cultures Together) Brunch #63 (773) 784-8922 or (773) 493-3312

Tuesday, May 5

Berlin Testosterone Tues, Ralph Rosario spins, GoGo boys. 954 W Belmont.

BROTHERS United Together discussion group for HIV+ men Tues 7-9p. STOP AIDS 1718 E

75th St. (773) 752-7867. **DuSable Museum of African American History & Afrocentric Bookstore** Acclaimed author Gloria Naylor reads from & signs her latest novel, *The Men of Brewster Place* 5:30p, free. DuSable Museum, 740 E 56th Pl (773) 947-0600.

Women & Children First Kate Summerdale, reading from her Whitbread Prize-nominated lesbian biography, *The Queen of Whale Cay: The Eccentric Story of "Joe" Castairs, Fastest Woman on Water*. The life of Marion "Joe" Castairs, a 1920s Standard Oil heiress & notorious cheroo-puffing cross-dressing butch, 7:15p (773) 769-9299.

Wednesday, May 6

Berlin Women's Obsession Weds. @ 954 W Belmont. (773) 348-4975.

Seminary Co-op Bookstore presents noted lawyer/activist/teacher Derrick Bell (*And We Are Not Saved*) discussing & signing new book, *Afrolantica Legacies*, a series of "parables" on race, the white power structure & contemporary jurisprudence. 7p, free. @ 5757 S University (in Hyde Pk). (773) 752-4381

Thursday, May 7

AIDS Foundation of Chicago Southside Caucus meets 9-11a. @ Roseland Hospital, 45 W 111th, (312) 922-2322.

Horizons Youth Group hosts lesbian author & SF artist Daphne Scholinski (*Last Time I Wore a Dress*) 961 W Montana. Info/hotline (773) 929-HELP.

House of Blues An Evening of Blues Legends, w/ John Mayall & the Bluesbreakers, Otis Rush. **The Vix** "Bid Whist at Vix" 8pm, no cover. 2814 N Halsted. (773) 529-3999.

Women & Children First presents Judy Norsigian, one of the original Boston Women's Health Collective members, who'll speak on the latest, most inclusive edition of the classic reference, *Our Bodies, Ourselves for the New Century*. 7:30p. 5233 N Clark. (773) 769-9299.

Friday, May 8

Chicago Cultural Center "Birthdays @ the CCC"—today,



FUTURE PICKS: Author Barbara Smith is coming to Women & Children First June 21. Call (773) 769-9299 for details.

Lesbians march in African Liberation Day Parade May 16.

influential bluesman Rbt Johnson honored by guitarist/storyteller Fruteland Jackson. 1p, (312) 744-1426.

Saturday, May 9

Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays city-wide meeting 10a-noon @ Church of Open Door 5954 S Albany (312) 409-4917

Gerber/Hart Library Glenlivet Salon visiting author series presents Daphne Scholinski reading from her autobio, *The Last Time I Wore A Dress*. Women & Children First co-sponsor. 7:30p, seating 3352 N Paulina. (773) 883-3003.

Horizons Older Adult Prog hosts today's Silver Images Film Festival prog, incl *Maman et Eve* (Mum's the Word), *Vpining the Legacy*, & *Stand Up On High Ground* with Penny Lang. 1-3p, \$4. @ FACETS, 1517 W Fullerton. Horizons (773) 929-HELP.

Lesbian Community Cancer Project, SAIC Film Center & Women Make Movies present the Chicago premiere of *Rachel's Daughters: Searching for the Causes of Breast Cancer*, dir Allie Light & Irving Saraf (1997, 106'), then Q&A w/ directors. 7:45p, \$7 (\$3 FC members), tix from SAIC FC box office today. @ Columbus Dr & Jackson Blvd. Info (312) 443-3733. ALSO, a Palmer House dessert reception w/ the filmmakers follows screening at 9:45p to benefit LCCP, \$50 incl admit to film, benefit tix from LCCP (773) 561-4662. Additional screenings May 10 at 3:30p (filmmakers Q&A follows) & 6:30p (filmmakers panel discussion follows, incl author Lane Clorfene Casten, Dr Rachel Rubin & LCCP pres Jackie Anderson-moderator); plus May 17 at 2p & 4p.

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children Teresa Trull and Barbara Higby, 7:30pm, suggested donation. 1650 W Foster. (312) 409-0276.

Sunday, May 10

GAMBA gay/bi men's discussion group meets, topic "Tell Me What You Like: Negotiating Safer Sex." 7-9p. @ MOIP offices, 1255 S Wabash. BROTHERS CAN info (773) 752-7867.

GIFT (Growing in Family Togetherness) 2-4pm. All welcome. 3326 N Lincoln. Helpline/info (773) 869-9100.

Jacques Cristion proudly presents "From Blue Collar to White Collar," 2nd Mother's Day fashion extravaganza, featuring some of Chi's top male & female models, music by Terrible Tubb, champagne & hors d'oeuvres to all moms the 1st hr! 4-9p, \$12adv, \$15@door. @ St Elizabeth Hall 50 E 41st St. (773) 955-0871.

Mother's Day with Christina Crawford hosted by Honey West, all to benefit Open Hand Chicago! Music Box, 3733 N Southport. (800) 789-8536.

Tuesday, May 12

BROTHERS United Together discussion group for HIV+ men meets Tues 7-9p. @ STOP AIDS office, 1718 E 75th St. Info (773) 752-7867.

House of Blues LL Cool J. **Powder Room @ Spin** Girls Nite begins 9p 2nd & 4th Tues, enter on Belmont. @ Halsted & Belmont. (773) 327-7711.

University of Chicago Queers & Associates screens Cheryl Dunye's *The Watermelon Woman* (1996). 7p. Ida Noyes Hall, 1212 E 59th St (in Hyde Park). Info (773) 702-8575

Wed., May 13

GAMBA ("warrior") support group facilitated by Charles Nelson under BROTHERS Community Awareness Network (Brothers CAN) (773) 752-7867.

Imani Umoja discussion group for gay & bi

brothers of color meets 2nd & 4th Wednesdays—feeling & healing the spirit during Black History Month & all year 'round! (773) 907-8993.

The Revolution Ensemble serves up premiere concert of Peter Saltzman's novel orchestral jazz/blues/rock/r&b/Latin/classical blend: "Never Lose the Blues," 7p, \$20 (\$35 incl 6p pre-concert reception). @ Harold Washington Library Auditorium, 410 S State (708) 660-0820.

Thursday, May 14

Affinity black lesbian/bi women's discussion group meets 2nd Thursdays 7-8:30pm. At Mother Drexel Hall, lower level (enter off 61st St pkg lot), 6042 S Indiana. Info, topic (312) 409-7609.

Unabridged Bookstore presents Cristina Garcia reading from her novel, *The Aguero Sisters*. 7:30p. 3251 N Broadway. (773) 883-9119.

Friday, May 15

PACT-Youngstown (People of All Colors Together) 15th anniv celebration & 1998 Spring Midland Regional Meeting (incl MACT), thru May 17, Youngstown, OH 44501; info (330) 550-0805.

Women & Children First Patricia Bell-Scott, editor of the collection *Flat-Footed Truths: Telling Black Women's Lives*, which assembles works of 27 Black women, from Alice Walker to Zora Neale Hurston, offering intimate truths about "our own lives & the secret history of our nation." 5233 N Clark. (773) 769-9299.

Saturday, May 16

26th Annual African Liberation Day Parade Join in to march as visible queer/gay/lesbian/bi/trans peoples of African descent! Bring your org's banner. Meet @ 10:30a, corner of Madison & Laramie (look for the rainbow flag). Nat'l Black United Front-sponsored Parade steps off @ 11:30a. (773) 252-6019.

Affinity 40 Plus women's group meets 3rd Saturdays, 4-6pm. (773) 667-7606.

WomanMade Gallery benefit 10K walkathon (312) 328-0038

Sunday, May 17

ONYX "Onyx Leatherman Send-Off" Club Nite @ Cell Block, 5-9p, 3702 N Halsted. Info (312) 329-6141; email <ONYXmail@aol.com>.

Park West Regina Belle. (312) 559-1212.

Monday, May 18

House of Blues Billy Mayers.

theatre Q & Gerber-Hart Library present "The Stories of Our Lives..." Tonight, *Never Letting Go*, 3 short works by Steve Langley (who'll be in town for the show!), staged pieces dir by Byron Stewart, performed by A Real Read. 8p, \$6 (\$3 G-HL members). @ 3352 N Paulina St. Info/reservs tQ (773) 271-9287 or Doug Ewart (312) 458-9184.

Wed., May 20

Bankers Association for Gay/Lesbian Equality (BAGLE) 1st official citywide event, 5:30-7:15 p.m., Midland Hotel, on Adams (between Wells and LaSalle). For gay and lesbian financial professionals; events open to the public. Featured speaker Pat Logue of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund on workplace discrimination. Donation \$5, plus cash bar; hors d'oeuvres served. Call Keith Smith (312) 630-1591 or David Brown (312) 630-1367.

Roseland Community Hospital Taking Control of Diabetes, free training prog 3rd Weds. 11a-3p. @ 45 W 111th St. (773) 995-3082.

Thursday, May 21

Black Lesbian & Gay Pride Weekend, in Washington, DC celebration May 21-24 Details 1-800-94-BLGPD; www.dblackpride.org.

Horizons Community Services "Wild Women Week" of benefits kicks off tonight w/ a "Wild Women" party @ SideTrack, 3349 N Halsted. Numerous club events thru May 31, incl performances by Kate Clinton, Ann Reed, Ellen Rosner/Gal-O-Rama, & Funny Chicks—@ venues from Manhole to Spin to Roscoe's to Big Chick's (BC hosts Memorial Day special). Tix range from free to \$100 for Clinton VIP rate (cocktails w/ Kate plus show), most \$10-25. Passport ticket \$75. All tix on sale May 1 @ Horizons! Details (773) 472-6469, x257.

House of Blues LL Cool J.

ONYX International Mr Leather Weekend @ the Ramada Congress (312) 329-6141.

The Vix "Bid Whist at Vix" 8pm, no cover. 2814 N Halsted. (773) 529-3999.

Friday, May 22

Star Plaza George Clinton & the P-Funk Allstars. Tonight & Sat. (312) 559-1212.

Saturday, May 23

ONYX Events during International Mr Leather Weekend @ Ramada Congress Hotel, thru May 26. Today, Mr Ebony in Leather Contest, 2p @ The Leatherneck, 209 W Lake. THEN ONYX Leather Dance Party 9p-2a @ the Ramada Congress in the Oxford Rm (1st fl), co-sponsored by GBM mag. On Sun, People of Color Networking Brunch, 1p, Wishbone Restaurant, Washington & Morgan. Call ONYX for info (312) 329-6141; email <ONYXmail@aol.com>.

Sunday, May 24

House of Blues International Mr. Leather.

Tuesday, May 26

University of Chicago Queers & Associates co-hosts gay & lesbian film series on Tues eves all quarter. Tonight, "WIDC Presents: Local Lesbian Shorts"; reception & directors' chat follows. 7p. @ Max Palevsky Cinema, in Ida Noyes Hall, 1212 E 59th St (in Hyde Park). Info (773) 702-8575 or go to www.docfilms.uchicago.edu.

Wed., May 27

Women & Children First co-hosts Harold Washington Library appearance of visionary Af-Am scholar Cornel West & award-winning author & economist Sylvia Hewlett, whose new book, *The War Against Parents* argues that parental integrity has been undermined by gov't, media & big business over the last 30 yrs. 5:30p. @ 400 S. State. (W&C1st @ 5233 N Clark. (773) 769-9299.)

Friday, May 29

10th Annual Lambda Literary Awards

Banquet The year's best queer writers honored right here in Chi-town, on the eve of the Book Expo! Winners in 20 categories, selected by 70 diverse judges, the Midland Hotel, (202) 462-7924.

African American Women on Tour kicks off in Detroit; features celeb speakers Gladys Knight & Iyanla Vanzant, plus investment expert Gail Perry Mason, pop author/activist Jawnana Kunjufu; thru Sun. Stops also in Philly June 5-7 w/ Sheryl Lee Ralph & Vanzant; NYC July 10-12 w/ Vanzant; Wash. DC Aug 21-23 w/ Knight, Vanzant & Melba Moore; 1-800-560-2298; aawot@mindspring.com

Women & Children First

Tuesday, May 5, 7:15 p.m. Kate Summerscale: *The Queen of Whale Cay: The Eccentric Story of "Joe" Carstairs, Fastest Woman on Water*

Thursday, May 7, 7:30 p.m. Judy Norsigian: *Our Bodies, Ourselves for the New Century*.

Friday, May 15, 7:30 p.m. Patricia Bell-Scott: *Flat-Footed Truths: Telling Black Women's Lives*

Patricia Bell-Scott has woven a tapestry of voices from the creative lives of African-American women in this collection of essays and interviews. As editor, Bell-Scott assembles the work of 27 black women, such as bell hooks and Sapphire who struggle with their own art and identity, or Alice Walker who searches for the unmarked grave of Zora Neale Hurston. In bringing together these intimate tales of truth, "we may discover the truth about our own lives and the secret history of our nation."

Wednesday, May 20, 7:30 p.m. Kate Kane, Elizabeth Kelly, and Eric Rofes: *Opposite Sex: Gay Men on Lesbians, Lesbians on Gay Men*

Wednesday, May 27, 5:30 p.m., at Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State Sylvia Hewlett and Cornel West: *The War Against Parents*

We are extremely pleased to host an event with visionary scholar Cornel West and award-winning author and economist, Sylvia Ann Hewlett, who will discuss their new book, *The War Against Parents*. West and Hewlett argue that the integrity of parents has been gradually undermined in the last 30 years by government, the media, and big business. They call for a Parents Bill of Rights to unite America's 62 million parents behind an agenda focused on the commitment to our families. May Pipher, author of *Reviving Ophelia*, says this enormously important book "will become the modern parent's best friend."

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Unity Conference: One for All ... 250+ at CBLG Events

The Unity Conference, sponsored by Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays April 3-4, truly occurred because of the unity within the community. The Literary Exchange and Affinity connected and sponsored Cheryl Clarke. The Joel Hall dancers were underwritten by Shelton Watson. The appearance of "Da" Fellows was underwritten by Club Escape. And Lora Branch was the DJ at the dinner/dance and did not charge a penny. The list goes on and on.

A portion of Mary Morten's film, *Leaving The Shadows Behind*, was shown at the dinner. It is a new documentary of Black lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender activities in Chicago. Footage includes conversations with activists and members of the community, from the Fall of 1995 and continues with the coverage from the 1996 and 1997 Unity Conferences, the Bud Billikin Parade, Church of the Open Door, interviews and much more. CBLG received letters of support or ads from U.S. Senators Carol Moseley Braun and Richard Durbin, U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (all honorary co-chairs), Mayor Richard Daley, U.S. Rep. Luis Guterrez, State's Attorney Richard Devine, Recorder of Deeds Jesse White, and President Bill Clinton.

The conference co-chairs were Mary Morten and Israel Wright. Susan Stanley was the conference administrator. Renae Ogletree and Michael Harrington are the co-chairs of CBLG, and Gary Rice helped with the dinner gala. Truly a community event.

What follows are reports from the 4th Annual Unity Conference.

Phill Wilson's Keynote

by Kathleen Rose Winter

Phill Wilson, Commissioner of HIV Health for Los Angeles County, discussed how people spend "a lot of time building walls" within our communities that eventually promote exclusion. He stated that before he "builds a wall," he would

all new cases of AIDS—"a far greater proportion than any other racial group"—and have benefitted the least from the new combination therapies. He said throughout the epidemic, African-Americans "have fared far worse than whites and others on every other healthcare measure. ... We are diagnosed later, in the course of the disease," and we receive inadequate treatment.

Commissioner Wilson wants to remind people of what "the walls" are keeping in or keeping out—that even though there exists a real and powerful institutionalized racism, sexism, and classism, we



From left: Michael Harrington, Mary Morten, Renae Ogletree, Israel Wright. Photo by Tracy Baim

want to know who he is "walling in or walling out." He continued with the observation that the "walls" in our communities are detrimental to our survival as we enter the 21st Century.

He said that regarding health, education, and employment, "Blacks fair far worse than almost any other ethnic group." He said that "so urgent is the need" that the Federal Government has targeted "six critical health issues in which Blacks and other people of color suffer an intolerable gap." Due to this situation, Wilson says the Clinton Administration "has vowed to close this gap and has committed \$400 million to help bring all Americans to health parity."

Wilson noted that African-Americans account for 45% of

"don't have to be partners in our own demise."

Phill Wilson ... the words go on

by Robert Schultz

Phill Wilson's keynote speech used the theme of "walls" to illustrate how individuals can be included and excluded from one another. "We wear our fingers rough working them [walls]," Wilson reflected. Fences, which are a type of wall, Wilson observed, can make "good neighbors."

Wilson urged the audience to go beyond the walls of exclusion and begin the hard work because, "no one can save us, but us." He went on to urge those present to "weave ropes and build bridges" to bring individuals together to build

community.

Wilson portrayed how the walls that separate the straight and gay Black communities, and the gay community from its constituent parts weakens the ability to pursue agendas important to the survival of the Black lesbian/gay/trans community.

Wilson reminded those gathered to go back to their roots and to be out in the African-American communities and to our families as well because, "They need us to do so." It's not enough to be out on the North Side when one is not out on the South Side Wilson, reminded the audience.

Wilson said he feels that the Black lesbian/gay/trans community has much to offer society at large as individuals within the Black lesbian/gay/trans community experience life where issues of sex, race and gender collide.

Dr. Marjorie Hill

by La Jaunessee Jordan

Covering Dr. Marjorie J. Hill's keynote address at the CBLG Unity Conference was difficult. It was difficult because she made so many valid and important points, in her own special way, that as I tried to decide which of her words to include, I thought, "All of them!" Unfortunately, space does not allow for that.

Hill often took the audience from laughter with a punch line quickly into the sharp punch of reality, thus silence or applause. I heard several statements like: "She's really down to earth," and "She's a real sister."

Hill reflected, "I remember when I was ... thinking about being a lesbian. I didn't know any African-American lesbian or gay people. ... If we can sit around with ... 200 African-American lesbians and gays, that's a real testament. I think it is important that we are able to celebrate the victories while we look at the challenges..."

Hill said she would discuss the three "R's" —Renaissance, Revival and Room. Below are excerpts from Hill's address.

"Unity IV didn't happen by accident. And I can imagine that for Michael (Harrington) and Renae (Ogletree) and for many of the people who worked on the committee, these last five years have not been easy. Some people have left with hurt feelings. Some people have stayed with hurt feelings. Some people have found their soulmates. Some others have found broken hearts. Some have (thrown) sho' 'nuf hissies. And some have barely said a word. Someone has been too Black. And somebody hasn't been Black enough. And somebody took the money, lost the money or didn't give the money that they said they were going to give. And too many—far too many of us have died. And yet, today you and I—all of us—came, in spite of our past disappointments, in spite of our fears, in spite of our experience, with some ... (bit) of hope, with some degree of expectation, and just a touch of curiosity ...

"WEBSTER defined renaissance as a rebirth or revival—a period of revived intellectual, artistic or cultural achievement. ... I've been sort of interpreting renaissance to simply equal history. And history is too often a neglected aspect in our organizing artillery.

"History provides us with a reference point and a context from which to interpret our present reality. History is our personal, social and political barometer. Reflect with me on your coming out. What were you saying? Feeling? Doing? Even if that was just last week, one week of insight makes us closer to our true selves ...

"How many of you saw *Amistad*? Remember listening to Barbara Jordan inflame America when she spoke at the Democratic National Conference? Read Bayard



Marjorie Hill and Phill Wilson. Photo by Tracy Baim

Rustin's autobiography? Or simply visited the *Schaumburg*? Renaissance, by implication, means the greatness was and still is within us. We only have to connect with it. ...

"Revival conjures up images of huge tents, exhilarating music and inspiring words. I am of the opinion that we are all inherently spiritual—not to be confused with religious. And our spirits desire and yearn for periodic renewal and regeneration—whether that's prayer, chanting, walking in the park, or being in touch with our innermost selves. We need to touch that essence. Oddly enough, the examples I came up with are solitary. But I believe that it is communal spirituality that has fed the African-American community and the African-American gay, lesbian and bisexual communities. ...

"Almost every aspect of our lives as openly gay and lesbian people continues to be under siege. So it amazes me when any one of us dares to speak our true selves.

"(Hill entertained with her "Luther Vandross—want to have a party story." She then continued as follows.) Making the world a better place won't happen because Luther is singing in the background. Making the world big enough, roomy enough, spacy enough for us all will not occur by having a good time. So if all

we have done is had a party then we've changed very little. In fact, if we have made no room for difference, no space for distention or discomfort then we've done nothing at all.

"Far too many of us have internalized painfully negative messages about who we are and what we are worth. Low self esteem keeps us from negotiating safe sex, getting mammograms, asserting ourselves in both personal and professional situations. (It) keeps us in bad relationships and away from positive avenues of support. Negative self esteem creates tremendous internal strife and anxiety as well as contributes to problematic social interactions. ...

"My sisters and brothers, we can only provide room for others when we have created positive and affirming space for ourselves. I can not join you, support you, be tolerant of you, understand you, if I don't feel that I deserve that same support and tolerance and understanding. And we do. We do because we are descendants of kings and queens. It was our ancestors who gave the Greeks science and astrology and physics. It was our ancestors who survived the horrors of the middle passage and cruelty of slavery and were never meant to survive. We are the daughters of King, of Malcolm, of Garvey. We are

the sons of Sojourner, Madame C.J. Walker and Barbara Jordan.

"We are the nieces of Audre Lorde and the nephews of Bayard Rustin. We are simply fierce. We can have a renaissance. We can have a revival. And we can make room for us all."

CBLG's Women's Institute

by Kathleen Rose Winter

As part of the women's institute, C.C. Carter and Gabrielle Hearndon did a presentation on self-empowerment for women which focused on "Eight Keys to Excellence." These "Keys" are Integrity, Ownership, Speaking With Good Purpose, Failure Leads To Success, "This Is It," Flexibility, Balance and Commitment.

Integrity is when one's values match her behavior. Ownership is about making a decision and living with it; also, not blaming other people or things for one's circumstances. Speaking With Good Purpose holds the philosophy that "behind the object of one's attack, lies the face of herself"—speaking negatively promotes nothing positive. "Failure Leads To Success" refers to taking risks in life and knowing that "success is in doing"—if one does not try, she will never know the outcome.

"This Is It" focuses on living with what you have and if you are not satisfied with it, change it. Flexibility means "there are no new ideas, just new ways of giving those ideas we cherish, breath and power, in our own living." Balance refers to learning to love oneself before having the ability to love someone else. And finally, Commitment means practicing the seven previous concepts every day, in order to not be a victim.

Also at the Women's

Turn to next page

Institute, Donna Rose discussed the self-identity of lesbians, and the relationship that identity may have to all types of abuse, addictions, illnesses, and preventive healthcare measures. She led a discussion on the definitions of abuse and addiction and answered various healthcare questions.

The remaining part of the Women's Institute was devoted to Pat McCombs' "Fetishes and Fantasies." Women went into small groups to discuss their fetishes and fantasies and then came together to compare and analyze the discussions. McCombs did an extensive demonstration on body massage which focused on techniques for women to use on each other, when they need to relax from the stresses of the day. Sexual foreplay and its relation to body massage was also discussed.

Men's Institute: Sex, Spirit, and Self Provocative and Honest Dialogue

by Preston L. Shumaker

The Men's Institute proved to be an honest, stimulating dialog among Black Gay Men/ Same Gender African-American Males. Facilitator Kevin E. Tindell established discussion parameters by asking participants to honor one

another's S.T.A.R. That is, validating our Sensitivity, Trust, Acceptance, and Respect — every man's sense of truth.

Thus, brotherhood would be maintained by being agreeable without being disagreeable. "What followed?" you ask. Simply put, much ignited, fierce dialog exchanges induced through provocative exercises. Tindell masterfully set the stage by stating his task was "to make you feel comfortable discussing uncomfortable topics such as race, gender and sexuality."

Among the highlights, Tindell challenged participants by rendering statements in which one must agree or disagree. Like-minded groups were formed and a spokesperson elected to defend the group's opinions. Remarks pondered included: Black males should identify themselves as Black first then gay, It is necessary for African-American Gay Males to have an African-American Gay Ghetto like Boystown, and Black Gay Men and Black Lesbians Can Be One Community. Some sparks flew through discussion, lines were drawn, and opinions defended. Spirits raced, and laughter was rampant. A spirit of Brotherhood and unity was accomplished. Many groups were certainly not monolithic in thought but participants lis-

tened to all views. Even as I continued to take my notes feverishly, I enjoyed every minute.

At the midpoint, Tindell shared his thoughts regarding the differences between sexual orientation, sexual identity and behavior. According to Tindell, orientation is determined at birth. However, an individual's sexual behavior and identity could vary at different times in a person's life. He gave the example of a male who brings a woman with him to an employer's outing. The company members assumed he is a straight male. However, at home, he had a male partner.

The institute concluded by allowing participants to ask a question they always wanted to ask another brother. Questions included: Why do same-gender BGMS put more importance on economics? Why does fidelity have little value? How do you view the terms top, bottom and versatile?

As participants prepared to leave, Tindell stated the institute served to touch the tip of the iceberg as a beginning discussion on male sexuality. "It's very spiritual to our being as same-gender loving African-American Males. It should be determined by us."

Cheryl Clarke

by La Jaunessee Jordan

Cheryl Clarke presented the

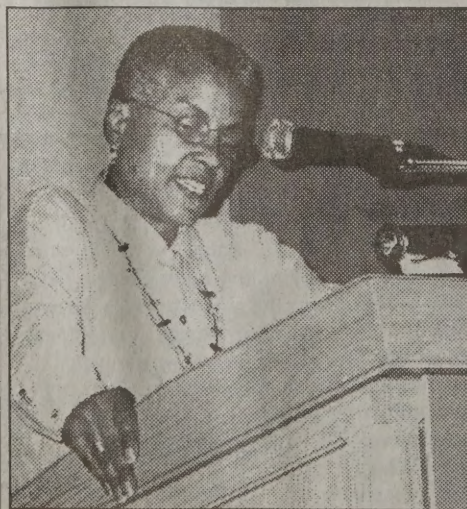
welcome address at the Unity Conference. Below are excerpts from her speech.

"My hope is that you and I, too, make the most of our time here—talking, connecting and contributing to the success of this enterprise which will be measured by those lessons we take back, apply and pass on. ... This conference is a space for us to let our differences sit down with us to engage them and ourselves.

"I gave up my heterosexual privilege in 1973. But if I were to say, 'I still sleep with men men,' how would you respond to me? Would I be lesbian enough to be here? If I were to say, 'My life partner is white,' would you judge whether I am Black enough to be here? If I were to reveal my HIV status, what judgement would you make about me? If I were even to go so far as to say lesbians aren't women, would you dismiss me? ...

"We all need to go to the session Mentoring LGBT Youth. All young people need real-life examples of Black lesbian and gay people who lived to tell the tale. ... There are many stories of the '60s that still need to be told. And there is still so much to be learned from those Civil Rights Movement years for our own organizing and advocacy as Black lesbians and gays ... all us sexual outlaws ...

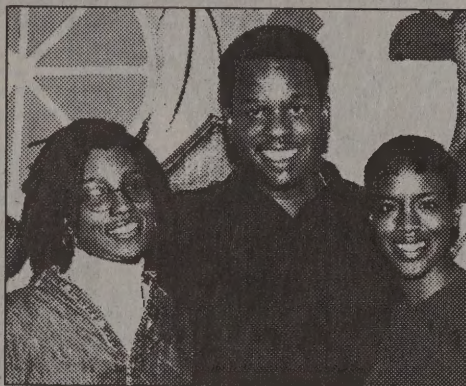
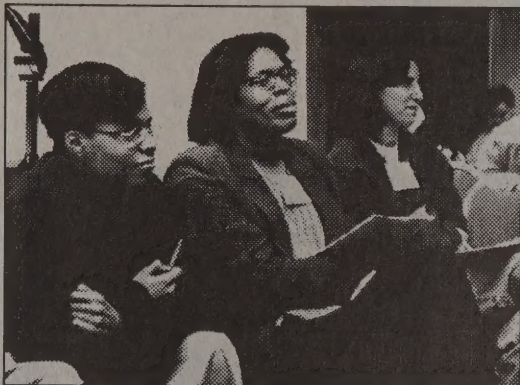
"For instance, one lesson we can learn from (is) the length of time it takes to change people's heads about sexuality and race. We know that there's still a lot of changing to be done. We have to go back over ground (already covered) with all these attacks on affirmative action. (We have to) not become complacent when we think our dreams have come true. (We should not) be satisfied with our victory. The minute we start feeling comfortable, we have to move into that learning zone—that danger zone."



LEFT: Poet Cheryl Clarke at the Women's Institute. Clarke also helped judge the Friday night poetry slam hosted by C.C. Carter. C.C. is pictured above with Victor, owner of The Vix on Halsted, where the contest was held. Photos by Heidi Hickman

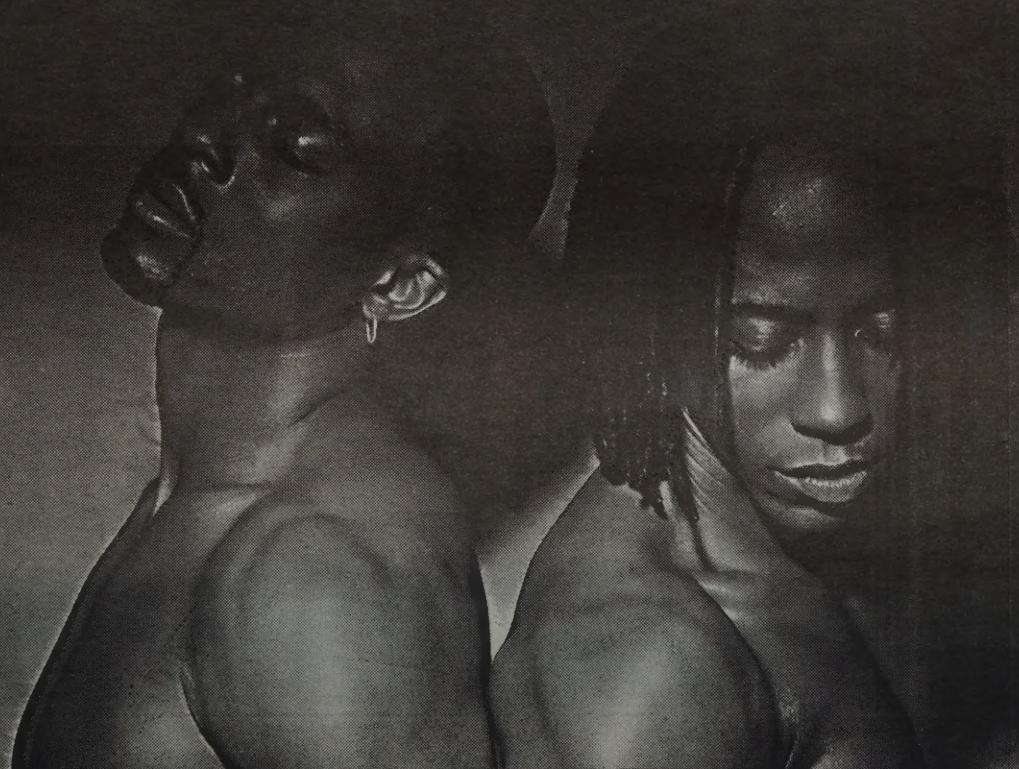
On this page are folks at the various events during the Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays Unity Conference, including the poetry contest at The Vix, the gala dinner, and the conference itself. Photos by Tracy Baim and Heidi Hickman

U N I T Y



Brothers C.A.N.

Community Awareness Network





GAMBA

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Wednesday, May 10, 7-9 p.m

Tell Me What You Like:
Negotiating Safer Sex

Wednesday, May 27, 7-9 p.m.

Let's Say Amen:
Black & Gay in the House of GOD

BROTHERS United Together

A discussion group for HIV positive men
Meets every Tuesday, 7-9 p.m.
at STOP AIDS Office 1718 East 75th Street

For information on

BROTHERS CAN Groups,
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Coretta Reaches Out to Lesbians at Luncheon

by LaJaunessee Jordan

Coretta Scott King was the keynote speaker at the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund's annual Bon Foster Luncheon held at the Palmer House Hilton March 31. The event honors Foster, who was a lawyer and gay-rights activist who left funds in his will for the establishment of the Midwest Office of Lambda.

King challenged civil-rights supporters to fight homophobia and anti-gay bias as she addressed about 700 individuals at the event, part of the nationwide celebration of Lambda's 25th anniversary of fighting for the legal rights of the gay and lesbian community.

"For many years now, I have been an outspoken supporter of civil and human rights for gay and lesbian people," King said. "I've always felt that homophobic attitudes and policies were unjust and unworthy of a free society and must be opposed by all Americans who believe in democracy."

King praised Lambda for providing "outstanding leadership" in protecting and expanding the rights of lesbians and gays. She reported that some say she should stick to racial justice issues and not speak out for the rights of lesbians and gays. She said she reminds those people of a quote from her late husband, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Coretta Scott King talked about opinion polls that report homophobic attitudes persisting although racial attitudes have improved. She said it is encouraging that more lesbians and gays are being elected to political office. "It is important for them to achieve greater vis-

ibility as supporters of laws that benefit the entire community," she said. "I think this will help educate the American people that lesbian and gay people seek the same goals of quality education for young



Lambda's Midwest Office (she has been the managing attorney since the office was opened in Chicago); and Kevin Cathcart, national executive director of Lambda. **Front:** Maggie Daley, First Lady of Chicago and honorary event co-chair; Coretta Scott King; and Lisa Freeman, event co-chair. Michael Bauer with Jay Miller, head of the ACLU of Illinois and ACLU legal director Harvey Grossman, at Lambda's benefit. Bauer, a gay activist and son of Holocaust survivors, will receive the John R. Hammell Award at the Hammell Brunch June 7. Kelli Peterson, who organized the first gay/straight student alliance at a Salt Lake City high school, will give the keynote address. Call (312) 201-9740. Photos by Tracy Baim and Israel Wright



people, cleaner air and water, safer streets and better health-care that straight people want," King said.

Lisa Freeman, an attorney for Amoco Corp., and Steve

Wakefield, associate director of the Night Ministry, were the event co-chairs. First Lady of Chicago Maggie Daley and Dr. Kenneth Smith, president of the Chicago Theological Seminary, were honorary co-chairs. Other speakers at the event included Pat Logue, managing attorney of Lambda's Midwest, and Kevin Cathcart, national executive director of the agency. Diane

TOP: Coretta Scott King before her keynote address. **BELOW:** Back row: Rev. Dr. Kenneth Smith, honorary event co-chair; Steve Wakefield, event co-chair; Pat Logue, managing attorney for

A Page Out of History

by Lester Davis

It was a rainy and dreary morning when the alarm clock woke me up at 9 a.m. March 31. I was so tired I didn't want to get out the bed. The temperature outdoors was about 40 degrees. Just another good excuse to want to stay in the house. I forgot that I had an engagement to attend at 11 a.m. So, I dragged my butt out of the bed and telephoned my friends who were riding down with me to attend Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund's 25th Anniversary luncheon at the Palmer House Hilton.

As usual, I was late picking them up in my car. I had to stop off at the store to get AA batteries for my mini-cassette tape player. By this time, I was running late and rushing in traffic. It was 11:45 a.m., the luncheon started at 11 a.m., and once we arrived downtown parking was another 10 minutes. Finally, we walked over to the Palmer House Hilton one hour late, noon CP (colored people) time. As we stepped off the elevator in the reception area of the Palmer House Grand Ballroom, I saw a huge crowd of people standing in lines to receive their reserved table seatings by registered last names. I went to the press booth to receive my reserved table seat. I said to myself, "Thank God they have not started the program yet." Lunch was being served in the ballroom as I sat down at a table with other journalists. There she was sitting on the panel with other distinguished guests and I thought, "Wow, another page in history, Coretta Scott King."

Lisa Freeman and Steve Wakefield opened the 25th Anniversary Bon Foster Memorial Civil Rights Lecture. First Lady of Chicago Maggie Daley, an honorary co-chair,

Harrison-James provided a musical response, and Mary Morten co-chaired a reception following the luncheon.

Contact Lambda's Midwest office at (312) 663-4413.

welcomed everyone to the luncheon along with her distinguished guests and panel. Rev. Dr. Kenneth B. Smith, president of Chicago Theological Seminary, an honorary co-chair, asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Robert ("Bon") Foster and others who died of AIDS. Kevin M. Cathcart, Executive Director of LLDEF, introduced Coretta Scott King as the keynote speaker for the afternoon. I thought to myself, "Oh, how privileged I am to hear and see a speech delivered by Coretta Scott King."

Coretta Scott King is an advocate for civil rights, non-violence, social change, and economic justice for all people. She praised and thanked Bayard Rustin and other gay and lesbian brothers and sisters for the work they contributed beside her in the civil rights movement in Alabama and elsewhere, and those who continue to work today. She has supported our community against sexual orientation discrimination, fought against efforts of exclusion and division, and spoke out with equal force for the rights of persons with HIV and AIDS.

Coretta Scott King said, "I still hear people say that I should not be talking about the rights of lesbian and gay people, and I should stick to the issue of racial justice. But I

Back row, from left: Singer Diana Harrison-Jackson; Rick Davis (co-chair of the Lambda board of directors nationally); Maggie Daley; Steve Wakefield; Dr. Kenneth Smith; Mary Morten; Lisa Freeman; and Pat Logue. Front: Coretta Scott King and Kevin Cathcart. Photos by Tracy Baim



hasten to remind them that Martin Luther King Jr. said 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.' So I have always felt like I have an obligation to speak on behalf of all people, particularly the disadvantaged, the deprived and those who have had their rights infringed upon. I believe that justice is indeed indivisible and that I can't ignore any form of discrimination if I want to be true to myself. The civil-rights movement that I believe in thrives on unity and inclusion, not division and exclusion," said Coretta Scott King.

After hearing that comment, I thought again to myself, "Why are white and Black gay and lesbian communities widely separated in the city of Chicago, especially in the Black gay and lesbian commu-

nity?" We are the cause for our voice not being heard in our community, because we are not supportive of one another. We allow homophobia to dehumanize our community. Too busy trying to conform to society's standards and not staying focused on our agendas by helping our own community to unite issues that affect us all. For example: registered HIV/AIDS individual names as offenders, AIDS Walk and how Black organizations don't benefit financially from the event as much as white organizations do, and the list goes on.

Coretta Scott King addressed in her speech homophobia and how it is linked to racism and anti-Semitism. "These fears are too often expressed as hatred, repressed legislation and even violence," said Ms. King. She talked about affirmative action and how white males don't perceive themselves as benefiting from it. "Yet, white males also have mothers and sisters and daughters who benefit from affirmative action. Thus, affirmative action benefits just about all families and it benefits everyone because it affirms the spirit of inclusiveness in the workplace," said King. She also reminded us not to forget about our children and the healthcare system along with insurance companies not protecting individuals living with HIV/AIDS, women with breast cancer, and cancer

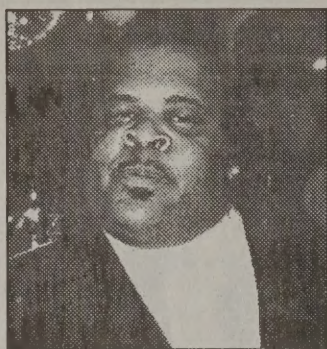
patients.

Coretta Scott King closed her remarks with words spoken by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the National Press Club in July of 1962: "We are simply seeking," said Martin, "to bring into full realization the American dream—a dream yet unfulfilled. A dream of equality of opportunity, of privilege and property widely distributed; a dream of a land where men no longer argue that the color of a man's skin determines the content of his character; the dream of a land where everyone will respect the dignity and worth of the human personality—this is the dream. When it is realized, the jangling discords of our nation will be transformed into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood, and men everywhere will know that America is truly the land of the free and the home of the brave," Martin Luther King had said.

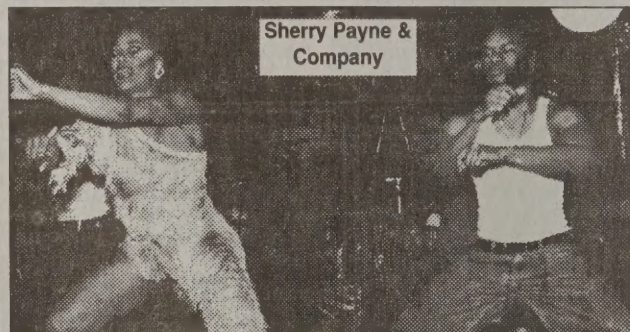
Coretta Scott King's address changed my attitude, especially the way I felt walking in late and complaining about how dreary it was outdoors; however, I felt honored to hear the legacy of Dr. King's "I have a dream" in her. Yes, it was definitely another high point in my life of history in the making!! "Therefore, I appeal to everyone who believes in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream to make room at the table of brother- and sisterhood for lesbian and gay people." — Coretta Scott King



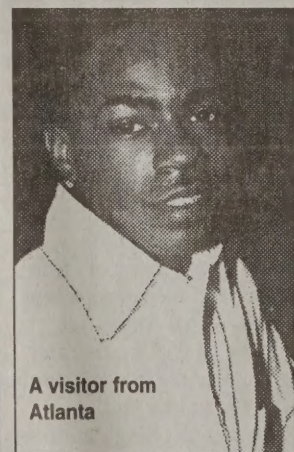
Literary Exchange's Donna Johnson and her mother Vivian Dillon meet King (Mary Morten is pictured in the background).



Otis Mack (top, left) celebrated his 6-year anniversary with a blowout in April, with dozens of celeb performers. At right is Whitney Gaytan. Pics by Israel Wright



Sherry Payne & Company



A visitor from Atlanta



Tahgee Iman



Sasha Sanchez



Amelia Black



Basia



Chicago's Golden Soul is in an open run at the Black Ensemble Theatre.

ARTS EXPRESS

Theatre

Opening Nights
April 29: Special mini performance of *Ain't Misbehavin'*, Fats Waller's music, 6:30pm Harold Washington Th. 6:30pm DuSable Museum of African-American History, 740 E. 56th Place, free (773) 947-0600

April 30: Jumpin' The Broom Darlette E. McAlpin poses a dilemma: to live with husband or re-unite with the man she loves. Developed thru Playwrights Discover/ Development Initiative for African-American playwrights & dramatic Black literature for stage. ETA Square, 7558 S South Chicago Ave (773) 752-3955

May 2: Yanga: An African Hero in Mexico true story of a 16th century African captured and sold into slave trade of Veracruz, Mexico. After decades of struggle, Yanga unites African and local indigenous slaves to rebel against oppression of colonial Mexico. Thru May 9, 7pm Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum (312) 738-1503

May 8: My People Duke Ellington's majestic musical, one night only surveys 100 years of progress of Black people since the Emancipation Proclamation. (312) 288-DUKE. Benefit.

May 10: Women Who Love Men Who Love Men Patty Morabito's cabaret act celebrating friendships straight women have with gay men, a personal look at love, relationships, overeating. Dan Stetzel on piano. Bailwick Repertory's Pride Series, thru June 7 Studio Th (773) 883-1090

May 11: Design for Living by Noel

Coward Goodman (312) 443-3800

May 18: Never Letting Go, will be read and **Two Cotton Towels** and **Gone Fishin'** will be staged at Gerber-Hart Library and Archives. *Never's* playwright, Steve Langley (who's *Seoul Food* was co-winner of Newspaper Project Awards of African Continuum Th. Co. in DC, who has toured with the gay/lesbian group. The Flirtations and who was featured in Marion Riggs award winning black gay film *Tongues Untied*, will be in town for the show, Gerber-Hart (773) 271-9287

In Performance
Chicago's Golden Soul a musical celebration of producers, songwriters, artists who propelled Chicago 60s-70s soul music and recording industry here into national fame. Features hits of some of Chicago's musical legends: Jerry Butler, Curtis Mayfield, Gene Chandler, Major Lance, Impressions, Betty Everett, Barbara Aklin, Etta James and a special tribute to Chi-Lites. Stars John Crowley, Melvin Abston, Lyle Miller, David Simmons, Chester Gregory, Ricky Sith, Arama Brown, Opal Staples, LaVondra Hinton. Musical director Jimmy Tillman and musical arrangers Thomas Tom-Tom Washington, George Paco Patterson. Black Ensemble Th. open run (773) 769-4451

In Harmes' Way previews, opens 18th. Landon Coleman's drama explores gender and sexuality as a professor is loved by a young mason who provides care after an accident. A black woman, an Asian man, an older white woman and a young man play in turn those roles, a col-

league and a nurse, showing that unique love cannot be defined by age, race, gender or history. Director Carl Hippensteel debuts. Features Wellesley Chapman (Equus), Michael Reyes (Dirty Little Show Tunes), Laurie Larson (Rope), and debuts Yvonne Huff. Thru May 24. Part of Bailwick Repertory's Pride Series. Studio Theater (773) 883-1090

Let Met Live In a surreal 1932 Georgia prison, lives and crimes of eight black men in cellblock 7 tell of injustice and tragedy in African American experience. Co-production with Onyx Th Ensemble. Goodman (312) 443-3800

Dance

May 4: Traffic, Dance/Jazz Summit, evening of improvisational music & dance showcasing saxophone great Von Greenman & San Francisco dancer/choreographer Robert Henry Johnson. series thru August. Steppenwolf (312) 335-1650

Art/Pics

Communities of Women Art Gallery Presentation on gallery's mission & how to apply, May 7, (773) 275-1319

The Dusable Museum Amistad exhibit, (312) 947-0600

Woman Made Gallery *Walk This Way Woman Made Gallery Walkathon* May 16; *Lesbian Visual Artists' Exhibit* juried by Ann Tyler, June 5-26, *Having Fun with Barbie*, May 1-29. 1900 S Prairie (312) 328-0038

Yello Gallery Contemporary Art of Ireland Towards a Black Pentecost, 12 works by David Eddelston inspired by Irish history & myth. (773) 235-9731.

Dancers Mix It Up: Jones, Ailey and Fagen

by Lester Davis

The Performing Arts of Chicago, Africa International House and other dance centers joined in the celebration efforts of the 1998 Spring Festival of Dance 12th Annual festival season with 11 world-class dance companies performing. The 1998 Spring Festival of Dance ends May 3, and what follows are highlights from recent performances.

This year's line-up featured our own Joffrey Ballet of Chicago. National Ballet of Spain, Wim Vaandekeybus and Ultima Vez, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Coppelia, Compagnie Philippe Saire, Muntu Dance Theatre, Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Dance Company, Garth Fagen Dance, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago (also up May 3), and Beppie Blankert and Dancers Studio.

Each company made a particular contribution to the festival, collectively merging hot jazz music to traditional to classical dance choreography. Performances were held at major theatres throughout the city: The Auditorium Theatre, Arie Crown Theatre, DePaul Merle Reskin Theatre and Museum of Contemporary Art Theatre.

The Performing Arts of Chicago presented Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre March 25-29. Artistic Director Judith Jamison's rejuvenation of Alvin Ailey's dance legacy as a medium for honoring his work from the past ("Revelations") to celebrating the present and fearlessly reaching into the future, was wonderful. Each night headlined an effulgent, composed, and miraculous choreographic performance gracing the theatre stage in tragicomedy about life. Her excellent piece, "Shelter," choreographed by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, music by Junior "Gabu" Wedderburn, is about being "between a rock

and a hard place at the intersection of reduced resources and reverberating rage"; however "The Stack-Up," choreographed by Talley Beatty, music by various artists such as Earth, Wind and Fire ("Face") and Grover Washington Jr. ("Aubrey"), was about how men bought drugs to a nightclub and hallucinated while dancing at the party. "

Alvin Ailey is a performance that speaks to us about our culture and should never be missed when in Chicago. — BLACKLINES

Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Dance Company returned to Chicago April 8-9 with Jones' new critically acclaimed work, "We Set Out Early ... Visibility was Poor." Jones' work has received rave reviews from critics around the country. THE NEW YORK TIMES called it a "cryptic but vibrant vision of the century"; however, THE WASHINGTON POST said, "The beauty of 'We Set Out Early' is that the journey doesn't end once the dancers leave the stage—it continues in the mind and memory." The music, which was



Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane company members (above) and Garth Fagen Dance (below).

composed by Igor Stravinsky, John Cage and Peteris Vasks, was ultimately aesthetic, elegiac, alarming and determined to reflect a number of Bill's journeys in a personal, societal, historical and spiritual that accounted for a community's adventure across the 20th century. More information about Mr. Jones' greatest achievements can be found in several of his books: Bill T. Jones' memoir, *Last Night on Earth*, published by Pantheon Books with Peggy Gillespie; and an in-depth look at the accomplishments of Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane can be found in *Body Against Body: The Dance and Other Collaborations of Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane*, published by Station Hill Press. Excellent books for your reading pleasures.

Bill T. Jones' performance is a geometric kaleidoscope of a fascinating journey. — BLACKLINES

Garth Fagen Dance Company, now in its 26th season, gave an excellent performance at the Auditorium Theatre April 11-12. Fagen's "One Postcard," per-

formed by Chris Morrison as a dance solo performance, was like looking at model Tyson Beckford in his underwear; it was that hot. And also, the "NKANYIT" (There, Here, Family and Tomorrow) performance was about how a respect for life, elders, and each other is instilled early in childhood (from the Samburu).

Garth Fagen is considered "one of the greatest reformers of American dance." Fagen is a native of Jamaica, which has created energies and movements of Afro-Caribbean modern dance due to famous influences and instruction of Ivy Baxter, Pearl Primus and Lavinia Williams. Alvin Ailey was one of several celebrated modern dance key figures who helped develop his craft as a dancer. Fagen's Dance Company has received the "Bessie" Award (New York Performance Award) and New York Governor's Arts Award for its impeccable achievements. Walt Disney Theatrical Productions selected Garth Fagen to choreograph the Broadway musical *The Lion King*, which opened in 1997 in New York City. USA TODAY called it "The Lion King: Theatre to roar for." If you missed his April performance at the Auditorium Theatre, then watch for *The Lion King* when it comes to Chicago. "

Garth Fagen Dance is poetically justified as being phenomenally fierce.. — BLACKLINES

flow ~ notes from the BLACKLINES Music Department

Near Asain

Aretha: Lady Soul

In 1968, this album was released, allowing Aretha Franklin to polish her crown as the Queen of Soul. Black America was undergoing a cultural revolution, which reflected the social strides being made across the country. The music of people like James Brown and Aretha Franklin gave validation to Black Americans who had survived years of shame and psychological abuse. Franklin's voice could express the Black experience in one note; the emotionalism told stories.

Her music could sound like gospel and her words, blues. Soul music marked the beginning of the Black Pride movement. It gave a lot to a people who, for so long, had to pretend to be invisible. **Aretha: Lady Soul** (Atlantic Records) has on it "Chain of Fools," "People Get Ready," "A Natural Woman," "Ain't No Way," and more. This is worth hearing again for the first time.

—Jano

DJ Harry T's Underground Top 5:

1. *Angel* — M People
2. *Strings of Life/Funk It* — Ralphie Rosario
3. *Move Your Body (To the Beat)* — Soweto Funk
4. *Elements* — Danny Tenaglia
5. *Chronicles* — David Ospinosa

Musical Memories

What Is Your Favorite Soundtrack?

Shelton Watson, Computer Technician
The Falcon and the Snowman

"A very surreal sound. I like the instrumentation and David Bowie has a very melodic voice."

Preston Schumaker, Social Worker, HIV Specialist
The Wiz

"Stephanie Mills hit close to home. She went on a spiritual journey to realize what she was searching for was inside ... she found a new sense of self as a result."

David Neely, School Teacher
Waiting to Exhale

"It's emotional. I like the way the music takes you from one emotion to another."

Charles Nelson, Prevention Director, Howard Brown
Eve's Bayou

"It had real powerful songs which shows how R&B and music developed in our culture. It reminds me of the music I used to listen to with my parents."

Up on It

music reviews by J.

Air — Moon Safari (Source/Caroline)

The name of this Paris group has been whispered by some of the hippest critics. A mostly instrumental combination of light trip hop, French kitsch and lounge music, this CD is a pleasure to relax to. Standouts include "La Femme D'Argent," "You Make It Easy," with delicate vocals by Beth Hirsch, and the superb "All I Need" (which suspiciously recalls Madonna's new style on *Ray Of Light*). Elements of '70s film scores keep the material hip without getting too serious. Use of the vocoder on "Sexy Boy," "Kelly Watch The Stars" and "Remember" give the release a tongue-in-cheek, flashback to the '80s feel. Spacey, chill-out music.

Alana Davis — Blame It On Me (Elektra)

This debut by 21-year-old Alana has quietly gained popularity over the past months partially due to her infectious cover of Ani DiFranco's "32 Flavors." Mostly co-written and coproduced by Davis, *Blame It On Me* is an accomplished collection of pop/folk songs. Alana's mature voice and style is heavily influenced by Bill Withers and Joni Mitchell (so much so, that her CD cover reflects Mitchell's painting technique).

The result is funky folk driven by Alana's acoustic guitar. A bonus are her insightful lyrics. From "Turtle" ("And don't ask for the world on a plate/cause you just might get ... Just when you're sure your life can change right before your eyes"), and the spunky "Crazy" ("How I'm living ain't correct/But for me it's just right"), to the excellent "Weight Of The World" ("the weight of the world has fallen/And the rubble is at my feet") and "Free" ("Days are lonely and nights are only a veil"), Alana conveys an old soul mentality with the attitude of today. "Love & Pride," "One Day" and "Lullaby" deliver a sound similar to late Wendy & Lisa material, while the mellow title track recalls "Midnight At The Oasis." So far, this is my vote for Best New Artist.

Aretha Franklin — A Rose Is Still A Rose (Arista)

Unlike fellow divas Chaka & Patti, Aretha's connection with today's music has been touch and go over the years. With *Rose*, the Queen of Soul finally lays down tracks worthy of attention. From the neck-popping title track, written and produced by Lauren Hill of The Fugees, Aretha tells it like it is and commands attention when she sings "Without him your life goes on." Much of *Rose's* success can be attributed to the healthy dose of young producers (Lauren Hill, Sean "Puffy" Combs, Dallas Austin, Jermaine Dupri) who manage to "hip" Franklin up without over producing or forcing her to act like she's 21. Aretha is left to belt, scat and sing up a storm of lyrical advice. Possible future releases include "Never Leave You Again," "In Case You Forgot," and "Here We Go Again" (featuring an infectious, fractured reworking of "The Glow Of Love"). On "Love Pang" Anita Baker's perennial producer Michael J. Powell helps Aretha do Anita better than the songstress herself. *Rose* closes out with the stellar "The Woman," proving that the Queen is still the queen. Now if someone could just help out Gladys ...

flow ~ notes from the BLACKLINES Music Department

Byron Stingily— Mighty Real

by Gregg Shapiro

Byron Stingily had just returned to Chicago from New York, after a promotional tour for his dazzling solo debut disc *The Purist* (Nervous Records), on the afternoon that I spoke to him. "I did a show with Martha Wash," he told me, "and she just went through all different spectrums of music in the show. She did a tribute to Bessie Smith and Etta James, and a lot of the great soul singers. She did all of the Black Box and C + C (Music Factory) songs. Freedom Williams joined her onstage and they performed "... Sweat."

When it came to Stingily's turn on-stage he did a couple of Sylvester songs, as a tribute to the late disco singer. On the whole, Stingily said it was a memorable evening and a great experience for him.

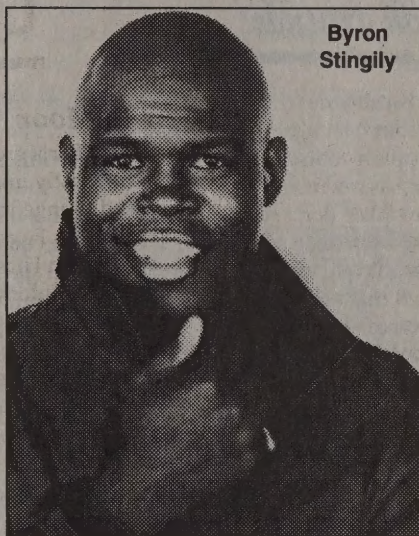
Gregg Shapiro: The first time I heard the name Byron Stingily was last summer at the Billboard Dance Music Summit, in Chicago, when you performed your cover of Sylvester's "(You Make Me Feel) Mighty Real," at Green Dolphin Street.

Byron Stingily: It was a very positive experience. Everyone (involved) seemed to be about trying to uplift dance music and the whole dance music community. It felt a little like a family reunion.

GS: Can you please explain *The Purist*, the title of your solo debut disc?

BS: To me, it typifies pure dance music, which is what I love. Sometimes, through life experiences, things get to be not so pure. Like myself, I had lost a lot of my original vision that I had when I first started out doing music. With this album, I was really trying to get back to a lot of the things that had inspired me to start out and do music in the first place. Sort of like me, purifying myself. Also, dance music in general has gone into so many different directions. People say, "I'm only into techno" or "I'm only into ambient" or "I'm only into electronica" ... to me, it separates dance music too much. Diversity is good, and it's good for dance music. I'm just in it for the pure love of it. It's all one music, and I'm just a purist without all these different labels.

GS: Your album definitely has a distinct "classic disco" sound to it. Do you see a



Byron
Stingily

trend towards a return to that particular style of dance music?

BS: I don't think disco ever really left, to be quite honest with you. The term became a commercially bad name. The music just went to the underground. I think it's dance music's time, once again ... since they burned all those disco records in 1979, here in Chicago ... now it's 1998, 19 years later. I think it's time for disco dance music to emerge once again. The "disco demolition" was such a hateful thing. Why would you blow up someone else's music, which is a work of art? If you don't like it, then you don't like. You don't have to go out of your way to dis an art form.

GS: You had the opportunity to work with more than a dozen producers (including openly Black gay DJ Frankie Knuckles, recent Grammy winner) on *The Purist*. Are there any producers with whom you would like to work again?

BS: I would like to work, again, with almost every producer I worked with on this album. There are a few that I wanted to work with on this album, but didn't get a chance to, such as Todd Terry, Danny Tenaglia, Tony B, Glenn Underground, Mark Grant, Derrick Carter (even though Derrick did do a re-mix of my first single, "Get Up").

GS: Do you see that happening in the near future?

BS: I would have loved to work with more people here in Chicago. The thing is, I reached out to a lot of people here, and they were all busy or they didn't get the tracks to me, or whatever. Hopefully, in the future, all of that will work out.

GS: Scheduling conflicts aside, it would be nice to work with those people.

BS: Yeah. People like E-Smoove, Glenn Underground. I would have loved to have done something with Cajmere.

GS: One thing that sets this disc apart is that you had a part in writing almost all of the songs. Can you tell me a little something about your song-writing process?

BS: I get inspiration from so many different things. Sometimes, I'll sit with a piano player, and he'll play some chords, and I'll come up with a melody and a hook from what the music is saying to me. Or someone will give me a track, for which the music is already finished, and I'll write the words. Or sometimes, I might wake up in the middle of the night with a melody in my phone and I'll walk over to my dictaphone and sing whatever it is into it that I was thinking about when I was sleeping. I come up with songs (in) many different ways. I try to pride myself on being a good songwriter. I did four albums previously, as the lead singer of the group Ten City and I wrote most of the lyrics and melodies while I was a member of the group. I've also written songs for Evelyn King, Ultra Nate and Adeva, people like that.

GS: Speaking of Ten City, are you still in touch with the guys from the band? Do you know what they are up to these days?

BS: No, I'm not. One of the guys has pretty much left music altogether. One of the guys, Byron Burke, I still speak to. He's producing tracks and he was living over in Europe for a while. He's living in New York now. I've been on the road for the last year and a half, so I haven't really had time to speak to my mom (laughs).

GS: You mentioned something before about dance music going "underground." The gay, male community can take a great deal of credit for keeping dance music alive. Is there anything that you would like to say to your gay fans?

BS: I would like to say that I really appreciate how they've supported my music over the years, from Ten City, through now. I really appreciate all the love and support that I've received. I did a mini-tour of the U.S. this year ... most of the time I've gone to Europe to do shows, because my records chart very well on the pop charts over there ... I sort of gave up on the U.S. in a lot of ways. But, doing this American underground club tour, I was overwhelmed by all the love. I want to say thanks for all the good feelings that I've received.

What's The "411"

with Preston L. Shumaker
Smart Sex Advice
with an attitude!

You Are History in the Making!

Potential is the sum of who you are that you have yet to reveal. It's a deposit that waits to be released and maximized. You are capable of much more than you are presently thinking, imagining, doing or being.

— Dr. Myles Munroe

Hey, Mon! As warm sunny breezes caress our faces, it reminds us that spring fever is in the air! Speaking of spring, I thought it would be a good time to discuss our own Spring Cleaning. How about revisiting those New Year's Resolutions? Remember? Are you keeping your promises to yourself? Are you decreasing your SMOKING like you said you would? How about your drinking? Have you reduced the amount? How about hanging out with folks with negative energy who degrade others? How's your diet plan? Are you going to the gym? Are you paying off those credit cards and cutting your personal deficit? Are you being honest with your "part-time lover/beau" about your boy on the side, or as Toni Braxton puts it, your "sexual indiscretion?"

Bottom line: Are you in current pursuit of self-empowerment? If the answer is yes, CONGRATULATIONS!!! YOU ARE ALMOST AT THE HALFWAY MARK IN YOUR JOURNEY! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. If the answer is no, we still have some serious work to do. But, do not worry. Let's see if we can create some positive energy to help you get over that hurdle! So, let this What's the 411 serve as your reminder. Pick

yourself up, brush yourself off the ego and start over again. Do not give up on yourself or those dreams. As my mom said: "One monkey don't stop no show!!" You can do it. I know you can. Take it one day at a time. Each day, your struggle becomes easier and lighter and before you know it, you reach your goal. However, you must believe you can achieve in order for you to succeed. But, do it for yourself. So, if the goal is to lose that stomach, quit smoking; or reducing the amount of unprotected sex partners, DO IT! You deserve nothing less than the best! SO, take a DEEP breath, take the first step. Stand up to your demons—no one else can do it for you! You'll surely be the one who ultimately reaps the reward. Trust me on this one! Enough said ... for now.

Speaking of self-empowerment, I had the opportunity to attend the Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays Unity Conference IV: Renaissance and Renewal Celebrating Ourselves at the Holiday Inn Chicago City Centre, April 3-4th. It marks the first year I've had the opportunity to attend. With more than 250 participants traveling from San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, and Canada, it was the most successful CBLG Conference to date. Many Kudos to Michael Harrington & Renae Ogletree, CBLG Co-Chairs; Israel Wright & Mary Morton conference co-chairs; an army of committee members and volunteers who put this monumental affair together.

My favorite conference moments? The feeling of brotherhood/sisterhood per-

meating throughout the Holiday Inn air. The courteous volunteers providing accurate information on sudden workshop changes in a timely fashion and making conference participants feel special and welcome. It's a real treat to see GayLesBiTrans African-Americans leading the way in, not only validating each other—but all conference participants regardless of race, creed, or color! As a result, networking opportunities and community activism history dominates the scene, new friendships are made while others rekindle past ones.

My personal highlight? One of my idols, Phill Wilson, delivers a scorching keynote speech calling for all Black Queers to come home and out of the closet! "How can people love us if they do not know us?" Wilson questions. In his address, he uses fellow gay/sbian literary greats like James Baldwin, Audre Lorde, Joseph Beam, and Essex Hemphill to bring forth his point. Hemphill's poem, "For My Own Protection," is recited: "I want to start an organization to save my life. If whales, snails, dogs, cats, Chrysler, and Nixon can be saved, the lives of Black Men are priceless and can be saved. We should be able to save each other. I don't want to wait for the Heritage Foundation to release a study saying Black People are almost extinct...." As Mr. Wilson continues to read Hemphill's words, a cold chill races up my spine. The sweat drenches me and pops off my forehead. My hands are tingling. There is something eerie about hearing his brazen truth. It is a surreal experience.

It challenges me to do further self-evaluation. It comes down to a simple phase: Together we stand—divided we fall. It seems like every time I hear him speak, I realize how much work there is yet to be done. Wilson's keynote rings of Dr. King's words, who also said: "There is nothing in all the world more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity. You have a moral responsibility to be intelligent. We have some serious work to do, y'all."

In addition, I finally had an opportunity to hear Dr. Marjorie Hill. It's nice to know that Wilson is a constant force on the national front, along with Dr. Marjorie Hill, who was equally inspiring. The two made an incredible tag team! They reminded us that we all have a part to play in the continuing drama of equality. Their combined message to "think nationally—act locally" made me think and challenged all of us to act. Now, we know what we need to do. The question becomes "What are we going to do?" The blood of kings and queens continues to run through our veins. Nothing can stop us! Let your actions speak louder than your words. Think about it. So, the spring cleaning begins!

As always, peace and blessings readers. Questions? Comments? Please, e-mail me at PrestonMSW@aol.com

Job offers ...

The International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission is looking for a Regional Specialist in Africa, Middle East, and English/French Caribbean. They are also looking for a Regional Specialist in Asia and the Pacific. CONTACT: International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, 94103 255-8680 Fax (415) 255-8662; Internet: Jobs@iglhc.org

Reaching Out

by Tiffani St. Cloud

Pioneering youth activist Tiffani St. Cloud, currently a student at Smith College and also a member of the Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame, founded the first known lesbigay club in a public high school, at Whitney Young. Following are excerpts from her speech at the Horizons Human First gala in March—where Tiffani received a Human First Award.

I would like to begin by thanking my mother, the sponsors of Pride, my dearest friends, Generation Q and all the members and officers of Pride. It was with their support that I was able to come out as the proud youth activist you see before you today and it is for all of them and myself that I accept this award. I would also like to thank Angel Ysa-guirre, Jim Kempland, Renae Ogletree, Vernita Gray and Horizons for honoring me with this award and their assistance.

My senior year of high school I found myself in two classes with one of the most hate-filled individuals I have ever encountered in my life-time. One day during physical education after a particularly disturbing encounter with this young woman, I found myself looking into the bleachers at a crowd of sophomore students and began to wonder how many of them were GLBT and if many of them were going through the same things. I imagined they were not out to their friends or relatives and unaware, as I had been, of the resources available to them within the city.

Despite having the support of my friends and my mother I was tormented by the situation I had to confront almost every day of that year. So I began to wonder how they, who probably had no support, were coping with their circumstances and how to make it possible for GLBT youths to meet and

support one another. It was at this moment that Pride was first visualized.

The group went relatively well and by the end of the school year we had at or over 50 members. I only had two concerns: the first being that all the members excluding myself and five others were white, which is quite odd as the school is about 60% Black; the second one being that no one else had a problem with this fact. When I brought it up it was brushed aside as a natural circumstance of the Black community. No one attempted to hear what I was saying or to understand my concerns and

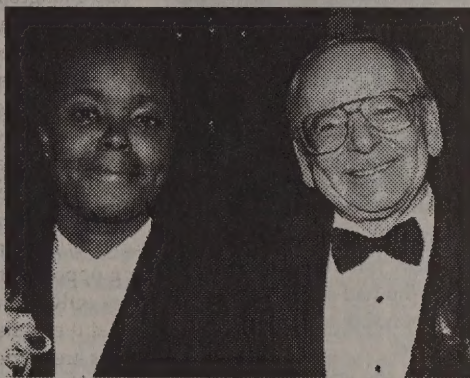
since everyone except me had no problem with this fact, I believed they were correct.

After my graduation I continued my activism at college, serving on the board of the Lesbian Bisexual Transgendered Alliance. It was here that I began to question the circumstances many GLBT people of color confront within this spectrum we call the "gay community." It was here where I first discovered the meaning of class and classism and it was also here where I first encountered a small, out and proud gay community of color.

It was after meeting them and seeing that my concerns were not isolated that I began to realize the fact that our community still has quite a way to go. In the mad rush for GLBT equality, people of color and economically disadvantaged gays and lesbians are being lost in the shuffle.

GLBT people of color have been rendered others and outsiders within our cultures because of an identity status which most of us have been

raised to identify as distinctly white. This idea is reinforced by the gay community and mass media's depiction of GLBT people. Other community members find themselves cut off from the mainstream GLBT community because of their economic status. A large percentage of our community members cannot afford to attend events such as this. I



St. Cloud (left) and Jim Darby, who also received a Human First Award. Photo by Tracy Baim

myself could not afford to be here were I not receiving this award. There is a definite lack of outreach and education to these groups and this fact needs to be addressed. The GLBT movement must expand its goals and re-evaluate its objectives because initiatives which specifically attempt to harm GLBT individuals are not the only ones that affect us.

Because we are such a diverse community, almost everything that happens affects us and we have to begin to recognize this. In my dorm room I have tons of information about gay and lesbian rights. However, I also have an equal or greater amount of information on race relations and the welfare reform law that Clinton allowed to pass. I did not notice one-third the amount of energy and outrage from the gay community in regards to this law's implementation as I did to the repeal of the gay-rights law in Maine and I am certain welfare reform affected a much larger portion of our community. Thirteen years ago it would have affect-

ed my family.

The way in which we visualize and represent our communities serves to shape who we feel we are and thus who we need to protect. There are an estimated 2.5 million Black gays and lesbians and I have no idea how many South Asian, East Asian, or Latinos there may be. This is because when the gay community does represent people of color we are represented as either Black or Latino. East and South Asians don't even enter the equation, and the economically disadvantaged members of our community don't even appear to exist. If the face of the gay-rights movement remains one of white middle-class gays and lesbians, many of us will be left by the wayside and continue to be erased from this community's history and consciousness.

I accept this award in the hopes that Horizons' planned GLBT community center will address these concerns both in its mission and location. I also hope that Horizons and other GLBT groups will work collectively with underrepresented individuals who are attempting to expand the image of the gay community both locally and nationally. It is a task that has had a long time in coming.

Thank You

Banana sodomy case to go to trial

Zimbabwe's highest court ruled March 26 that former President Canaan Banana will go to trial for allegedly forcing himself sexually on several male aides.

Banana, who was president from 1980-1987, had claimed he could not receive a fair trial because of extensive media attention but the court disagreed. He is charged with 11 counts of sodomy, attempted sodomy and indecent assault on seven aides, a cook, a gardener and a bodyguard.

—Rex Wockner

History Through Storytelling

by Kathleen Rose Winter

"Oh, I've been raped many times..." She said it so casually—almost as if it was a natural part of a little girl's life. As we were finishing up our first interview, both of us ready to leave, I turned to her and did not know what to say. Lisa Annette Williams, born 1966, in Shaw, Mississippi, is struggling today to find and keep the strength that a child born in her circumstances would need for a lifetime.

Lisa remembers Shaw, Mississippi as a small southern town. In 1966, the schools had just been integrated, while the town remained segregated. There were poor white people, but most were of a middle income level and lived in brick houses. Most of the Black people, poor, lived in "shotgun" houses, with no indoor plumbing. Lisa lived with her maternal grandparents, in a brick home (with indoor plumbing) surrounded by fields of cotton. Lisa began life with her grandparents because at two months old, her mother abandoned her at their house. The mother, with no explanation, left her baby girl in Shaw. Lisa simply states when referring to her mother, "She never liked me." Her father (not married to her mother) abandoned Lisa and went to live in Chicago.

To support Lisa, her grandmother worked as a domestic in the homes of white people, picked cotton, and received some "public assistance." Her grandfather was too ill to work. Life in this house was very strict and "proper." Her Southern Baptist grandmother tried to raise Lisa "right" by forbidding her to "see" boys. Her grandmother did not real-



ize that little boys were not the problem, but instead adult men who had a perverse way of responding to the trust of a little girl.

When she was 7 years old, her grandmother asked a family friend, a 50-year-old man, to baby-sit Lisa, for a short while. When he was alone with the child, he called her into the bathroom, showed her his penis, then raped her. Her grandmother returned not suspecting what had happened. The brutal rape left Lisa bleeding and frightened. This was not the end of this man's terror; he would visit the grandmother's home and asked "Where's the little girl?" Lisa remembers running to hide.

When Lisa was 11 years old, her grandmother died from cancer. She and her grandfather went to live with her aunt (mother's sister) in Greenville, Mississippi. Lisa, the oldest child, lived with two boy cousins, a girl cousin, and her aunt's husband. For two years, Lisa endured more terror. She says she was physically, emotionally, and sexually abused. The first few months, her aunt's husband welcomed Lisa into his home; she remembers feeling comfortable. Then his hospitality took a terrible twist. Lisa remembers that the sexual assaults occurred in the

kitchen. She says that first he would touch her, force her to kiss him on his lips, perform fellatio, then he would rape her. Lisa says that this man, well over six feet tall, grabbed her, an 11-year-old child, flipped her on her stomach, onto a small kitchen table, pinned her and repeatedly raped her. This continued for about two years. Like some "twilight zone" memory, Lisa remembers how this man would enlist the assistance of his daughter (Lisa's younger cousin) to warn him that his wife was coming home—that he needed to stop the sexual assault of this child. He would have his daughter sit in the next room, holding a red cup (Lisa emphasizes the red cup). He told her to "knock over" the cup when his wife came home. Lisa recalls waiting for the sound of that red cup falling down, so that she could be saved from the sickness and brutality of this "man."

When Lisa was 13, she left Greenville and went to Chicago to live with her father and stepmother. There, for one year, she says she endured physical abuse from her father and verbal abuse from her

stepmother. Lisa left and attempted to seek refuge nearby at her mother's house. When she arrived, she remembers her mother immediately calling her father and screaming, "I do not want this damn girl here! Why did you send for her?" Her mother and father argued over the phone for two hours. Her mother's husband, her stepfather, finally convinced her mother to let the child stay. At first, this seemed like an act of compassion—but Lisa, who felt like a burden to everyone, eventually found out that compassion was the last thing in his heart. She recalls that he had a "hidden agenda."

Lisa Annette Williams is her real name. Her story is not finished. I will continue telling it next month. This was and is a very hard thing for her to discuss. More remarkably, she is willing to share this part of her history, no matter how full of terror, with us. Her story is history—an important part of her reality—one that she lives with every day. For those readers who had an actual "childhood," remember Lisa, for whom "childhood" was just a word.

The Middle Passage Monument Project calls for artists to submit work

On July 3, 1999, during a ceremonial event at sea involving a host of scholars, clergy, political leaders, spiritualist, entertainers, and concerned citizens, a monument honoring the millions of men, women, and children who lost their lives en route to and at the hands of slavery between the 15th and 19th centuries will be lowered into the Atlantic Ocean's Middle Passage, perhaps never to be seen again.

Five replicas of the monument will be created for placement on land in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, North America, and South America. The Honorable Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, has endorsed the project, describing it as an opportunity to "help broaden the understanding of African cultures and the heritage of people of African descent."

Artists from all over the world, representing disciplines ranging from poetry and painting to jewelry and film making, fabric design, and sculpture, are invited to submit work for consideration; \$50,000 USD will be awarded to the artist whose work is chosen for the project.

Contact the The Homeward Bound Foundation, P.O. Box 25333, Washington, D.C. 20007 USA; (202) 333-0911 1-888-334-9229 Fax: (202) 362-7684 ; web page <http://middlepassage.org/>

Intersex Living by Lynnell Stephanie L. Thy Cup Runneth Over

Issue #3: Am I making a difference? I've always wondered why there weren't many people from the Trans/Intersex community out, when I came out. I asked a few people and the results were all the same. No one wanted to be out and known as Trans or Intersex. Some think if people knew they were Trans/Intersex, that's all they would ever be. Well, I debated the idea that the only way people were going to learn about us is for us to be out. I thought that way for awhile, but lately my opinion has changed.

I wonder if my being out is essential to the growth of the Trans/Intersex community. I'm not sure if I'm actually making a difference or just making headlines. More people have heard of my name recently, than ever before. I wonder if coming out was beneficial or just a mistake. After talking to a friend, I heard myself saying, "I want to move and start over, and never out myself again, EVER!" If I moved would I be running away because things aren't changing fast enough? If I give up because I'm not seeing the results of my being out, then I should have given up a long time ago.

I guess I've been a little naive about the world. I thought I could make a difference by being out. I thought by being out, being Trans wouldn't be an issue after awhile. Yeah, right! The LesBiGayTrans community is so used to being oppressed or oppressing. That's all we know. We have become blinded with rage and have started displacing our anger on each other. I've heard things like, 'Lesbians hate the Gays, Gays hate the Lesbians, Trans hate the lesbians and gays, and the Bisexuals are just confused.'

If this is all there is to the LesBiGayTrans community, I want no part of it. If Trans/Intersex women are supposed to become submissive, quiet women that don't say much—let



alone write or perform—then this isn't for me. I thought I was making a difference, but things are still the same. Or are they? I ask you, am I making a difference?

Issue #69: Sex & S/M. My interest in S/M isn't something I often write about. Why? For the same reason I seldom write about sex. There are some things Trans or Intersex women aren't supposed to enjoy—like Women, Sex or S/M for example. A few of us were talking recently about these subjects and I was asked why I never write about my dismay with the attitude some TS's have towards sex. Well, I will. When I started taking female hormones, my libido went up, way up. At first I was scared, I thought something was wrong. I asked my endocrinologist about it and he said, for me, it was normal. Since I am Intersex, my body has always needed Estrogen. Feeding it what it needs caused my body and libido to become alive. The fact that TS's or Intersex women are supposed to never have sex or only after the surgery is a rule I can't oblige. Then there's the question of how one has sex. As long as you don't use your male organ then you are a true transsexual and have earned your crown. Male organ? I recently brought another dildo and harness. Are my dildos male organs? When I use them am I male? Are lesbians who wear strap-on's male? I also use handcuffs, does that make me a police woman? Look, my libido is high and I love SM, and I'm enjoying life. I can't teach you how to increase your libido, but I can teach you how to use handcuffs, and a Deer Skin Flogger.

Issue #34: African-American Women. Why is it that there aren't a lot of my sisters into dating TSs or Intersex women? Yet when I date white women, I've heard so much gossip about how I never date Black women, I must be a sell-out. Well I love my Black sisters, and if you can stop worrying about what people might think, then maybe we could talk.

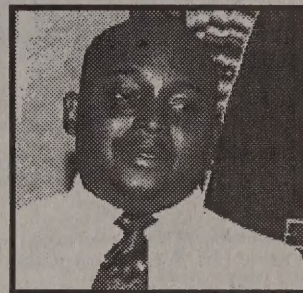
Lynnell is the winner of the Greater Chicago Committee's 1998 Georgia Black Award. Her e-mail address is INTERSEXx@aol.com

CARD REVOKED by D.L. Sanders

I was having a conversation with a few of my friends over the last month. One of these friends is about to give up on dating men. He felt that men have proven themselves to be distrustful and not capable of having a true relationship. He says he understands that women are not that much different but he has begun to find himself more attracted to women over the last year. He still considers himself gay but he wants to try dating a woman. His question was does this require his "gay card" to be revoked?

At first I laughed, but then I began to think about this. The thought is quite humorous, but I still decided to think about it seriously. What would it be like to date a woman again? So I began to have dreams about this—in my dreams I met this woman. She was about five feet six inches tall with medium-length brown/black hair. She had dark skin and had a captivating laugh. At first, our relationship was terrific. We would laugh and go out dancing until the early morning hours. It was perfect; she would call me at night and we would talk about our future, not together but our dreams and our careers. I would tell her about becoming this great producer and she would tell me about owning her own advertising company.

A month later she decided we should have sex. I was a little disturbed since it had been a



couple of years since I had done such a thing. I began to psych myself up. As the evening approached, I had psyched myself up and it went off without a hitch after the initial laughter. I realized she didn't have everything I was quite accustomed to. We decided to go at it again just to make sure I had achieved the perfect level of comfort. To my surprise, I didn't die or explode.

The next day, a strange thing happened. She began to beep me and demand to know where I was and where I was going and who I was with. Every time I mentioned a guy, her voice grew quiet and she was distrustful since she knew I had male sex partners before. Then after she stopped by my apartment unannounced one evening and found my ex-boyfriend, Nelson, over "watching a movie," she called me a liar and said I was cheating on her. When I tried to explain we were just friends, she told me I was a man and that men can't keep their things in their pants, especially when they don't care who takes it out.

I awoke in a deep sweat and yelling at the top of my lungs. NO! NO! I then realized I had replaced this woman with one of my ex-lovers and this dream was a replay of a very silly episode. I called my friend and told him about my dream. Then I said the only difference men and women have is that women have two more letters. The reality is that relationships are just as unpredictable and crazy no matter what the gender. As for me I think I'll give myself another five years before I put myself through another nightmare because my present love life is frightening enough. I don't think I can take my mind inventing something I can't control.

PERSONALS

HINT: When using the voice response system, increase your chances of a match by choosing the BROWSE option. **WARNINGS:** 1. We no longer accept for print home phone numbers or addresses. 2. Vice officers sometimes respond to suspect ads in an effort to uncover illegal activity. Note: sex-for-money agreements (even if no sex occurs) are illegal. **CODE:** ISO = In Search Of

Men

Good looking GWM top seeks Black or Hispanic bottom for LTR. HIV- and hairy, am 40's, 6', 170#. Send recent photo. **NLBox 301 (7)**

SWM, 28, 5'9", 180#. Never been fucked or sucked cock. Looking for first experience. Age, race, weight unimportant. Send photo. **NLBox 301 (6)**

Sex, romance. Attractive top, discreet straight acting, nice body 5'9" 150# 31 yr BM seeks slim guys under 37 yr (any race) **Page Lee (312) 216-9101**

SWM, 28, 5'9", 180#. Never been fucked or sucked cock. Looking for first experience. Age, race, weight unimportant. Send photo. **NLBox 301 (6)**

GWM, 6'2", 215#, 48 y/o, HIV+, handsome, blond, caring, passionate bottom. ISO lovable GBM top, 30+, for LTR. **NLBox/Voice 52503 (6)**

Yellow hankey slave wanted for video and beer meetings, any age, must be French active. Send photo. **NLBox 295 (6)**

Yellow hankey slave wanted for video and beer meetings, any age, must be French active. Send photo. **NLBox 295 (5)**

In search of man, 20's to 30's wanting his legs massaged for hours at a time. **Todd, PO Box 2211, Aurora, IL 60507 (5)**

GBM ISO GM versatile for LTR phone/photo gets immediate response. No drugs, alcoholics, hustlers need respond. Ready to Love? **NLBox 287 (5)**

News flash: This Latino 35, passionate, hairy, wants to meet BM plus, light skinned, bald head, as tall as 6'4", hung, passionate. I'll not disappoint you. **NLBox 293 (5)**

BM loves Latinos. I'm 35, very attractive, lean, HIV+, healthy, hairy, fit, hung, uncut, top seeking rugged bottom, especially Ricans. **Voice 52505 (5)**

GBM ISO GM versatile for LTR. Phone/photo get immediate response. No drugs, alcoholics, hustlers need respond. Ready to love? **NLBox 287 (6)**

Turn about. GWM, 50, mostly a top seeks a mostly bottom guy, any race, under 40, interested in receiving AND sometimes giving TT, S&M, CBT, WS, B&D and more. Light to heavy. Curious and beginners welcome. **NLBox 285 (5)**

GWPM, 6'1", 165#, 45 y/o, athletic in shape,

Personals

How to place an ad:

- The first 20 words are free; each additional word is 25¢. Ads run 2 Months. ADS ARE FOR ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Groups wishing to place ads in personals can do so at CLASSIFIED rates (\$10/30 words for 1 month, 3 months \$27).
- In addition to your ad, send your name, address, home phone & signature.
- You will be assigned a free voice-mailbox number, unless you specify you do not want one. You can record a voice-mail message for free; retrieving messages costs \$1.49 per minute. Upon receipt of your ad, we will send

your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.

- You can rent BLACKLINES mailbox/\$6 per month, if you wish to have written responses forwarded to you; we send them out once a week. (If you have your own PO Box, voice mail #, or beeper #, we request \$5 per 2 months. We DO NOT accept ads with home address/phone)
- Deadline is 10th of each month for next BLACKLines. You can also run in Nightlines and Outlines and En La Vida.

How to respond to an ad:

- If an ad ends with an NL/V #, you can reply by mail or by phone to that ad (some ads will list an address + a voice-mail # in parenthe-

ses—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail).

- If ad ends with NL BOX #, you can only reply by mail. If it ends with Voice #, you can only reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).
- To respond in writing, send letter to the NL/V # or NL BOX # specified at the end of the ad, c/o BLACKLINES, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chgo, IL 60657. Respond to all others ads as specified at the end of the ad.
- To leave a voice-mail message (\$1.49/min.), use touchtone phone to call 1-900-454-0101. Punch 1 & 5-digit NL/V # or NL Voice # to respond to that ad—or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages.

(773) 871-7610 (Tuesdays 9-5 only)

Ad should read

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Signature: _____

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Additional words 25¢ ea. \$ _____
MailBox # (\$6 per month) \$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____
Send to: BLACKLines/Outlines, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

attractive. Enjoys the usual things. Looking for similar, any race, with sense of humor to share the journey. **NLBox 277**

Passionate and horny GWM 40 5'8" 145, into massage, oral, top ISO Buddy (any race) for hot times and possible LTR. Write **AP Box 481044, Niles, IL 60714 (5)**.

Love, romance, friendship, endless passionate nights, dreams to share and more, nice looking latino 26, 6', 150. ISO black tall thin guy for serious relationship, you will not be disappointed. **NLBox 269 (5)**

28 y/o GWF with a kind heart and optimistic spirit seeks sincere GF 24-38 for friendship, possible LTR. I enjoy music, roadtrips, plays, outdoor sports (other than softball!) movies, and just exploring life. You? **NLBox 64**

Tell me your dreams. GHF 21 fun loving old soul. Loves poetry. Photography, clubs, and romance. Send letter. **NLBox 68**

Are you a tall femme GWF willing to accept an affectionate GBF? This woman is seeking you. Disease /drug free. **Voice 52683 (6)**

Lesbian feminist, academically inclined, early 30's, W, professional, ISO a solid, fun relationship. Passions include reading, chocolate, thoughtful conversation, animals, politics, sleeping outside, psychology, summer storms, lesbians and hazelnut lattes. **NLBox/Voice**

52685 (7)

Gay Latina, 21, ISO lesbians ages 21-30 for friendship and some clean fun! PO Box 50165, Cicero, 60804 **NLBox 50 (6)**

Female hermaphrodite seeking other female hermaphrodite for discussing our unique physical condition. Privacy assured, please no games, serious replies only. **Voice 52554 (5)**

Attractive 33 y/o GBF with one child. ISO attractive GBF 30-40 for serious relationship. No full figure women no games and no threesomes. **Pager (773) 226-5634 (5)**

Soft butch, Korean, funny, outgoing. Mostly PC, active in community. Love movies. Computer genius. 5'4", 126#. What more could you ask for? Looking for same in femme. Korean or other Asian only. **(773) 528-0073. (7)**

Hi, Ladies. If you need a soft butch in your life and a warm hearted caring person, then stop looking. I'm 5'2" brn eyes brn skin, looking also for a lady to have in my life. Any way, here I am waiting for you. Believe me, you're not going to be disappointed, love you or not. **NLBox/Voice 52546**

Late at night, when you can't sleep, do you stare at the ceiling and ask yourself, "Why, oh why, is my life so empty?" Could the answer be that you don't play bridge as often as you should? Well, that big, throbbing brain of yours can finally rest easy. An all-girl bridge group is now forming. Beginners welcome. Call **Voice 52544 (5)**

Mix It Up

I like to jack off. Do you like to watch? SWM ISO women and M/F couples for no contact fun. **Voice 52736 (6)**

Attractive straight BM, 5'10" 185# 40ish looking for attractive BF/Bif 21-35 brickhouse, independent, employed, no drugs. Send photo, phone, letter **PO Box 198914 Chgo, 60619**

GWM wants to massage a black lesbian's legs for hours at a time. No sex. **Todd, PO Box 2211, Aurora 60507. (5)**

Want to come out and play? Do you lay in bed thinking of what you could be doing if only you had a male partner? Do you have a fantasy you want to try? Are you bored thinking of having a casual affair? Lets talk. I'm SWM 36 5'11" 160 #, clean and discreet. **(708) 241-0364** or Jay. S. 1131 Lake St. #246, Oak Park, IL 60301(5)

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Women

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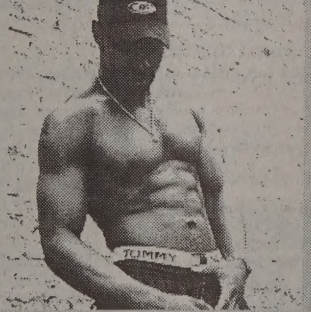
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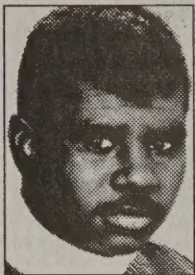
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World View: World Wide Web

by Andrew Davis

A Matter of Hate, Part III

So far, I have taken you on a tortuous (and possibly torturous) road involving virtual/real hate warriors. Now, this tour concludes with a listing of sites dispensing venom about race and religion.

The Aryan Dating Page (<http://alpha.ftcnet.com/~adp/>) is exactly what it purports to be: a virtual mixer for heterosexual white gentiles only. Check your sheets in at the door.

Aryan Nations (<http://www.nidlink.com/~aryanvic>) believes that the Canaanite Jew is the natural enemy of the Aryan (white) race. Naturally, considering this is a religion-bashing site, there are verses to support their "theory." Crosstar is devoted to American nationalists. It's a site dedicated to "majority-rule democracy, social justice and freedom." In order to achieve this, acolytes believe in the elimination of cer-

tain elements, such as "wetbacks, boat people, and aliens who crash American boundaries."

Jonny Reb (<http://www.jps.net/jonnyreb/>) is one of the more controversial sites I ran across—if there can be such a thing. This "small island of sanity in a world gone mad" features, among other things, a walking Caucasian man who eventually stops and urinates on a picture of someone who appears to be Jesse Jackson.

Lastly, for those of you who thought I would only mention white supremacist sites, there's the Nation of Islam site (<http://www.noi.org/>). Although many have heard that followers have anti-Semitic beliefs, this site confirms the existence of those ideas. Maybe they can get together with the people involved with Aryan Nations ... now THERE'S a way to bring people together. Simply use "the enemy of my enemy is my friend" way of thinking!

In dealing with hate groups, one thing should be kept in mind: fighting ignorance is paramount. I want to thank everyone who has read this trilogy—as well as everyone who has responded.

▼▼▼▼▼

Comments, questions, witticisms? Feel free to contact me at geminil@nwnu.edu.



Tracy of Club Intimus hosted a birthday bash recently. The club is going strong Saturday nights, 312 W. Randolph, (312) 901-1703. Pictured are a few of the many people helping Tracy (above, 5th from left) celebrate her birthday. Photos: Israel Wright



F.Y.I. Resources

Predominantly Black Gay Clubs

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CLUB INTIMUS (only Sat. 9p-3a)
312 W. Randolph, W,D,V.....312-901-1703
GENERATOR 308 N.Halsted, D, MW.....312-243-8889
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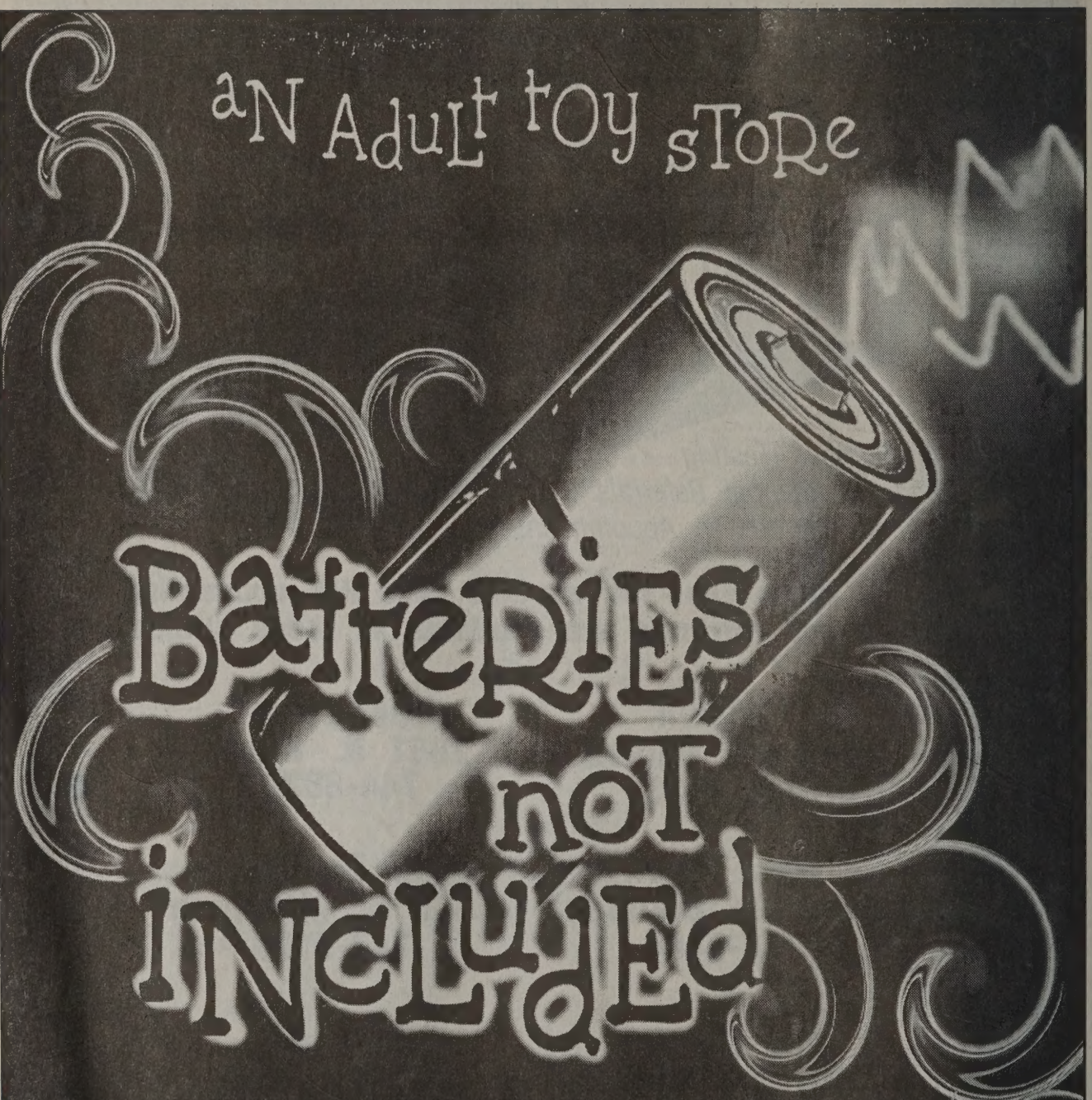
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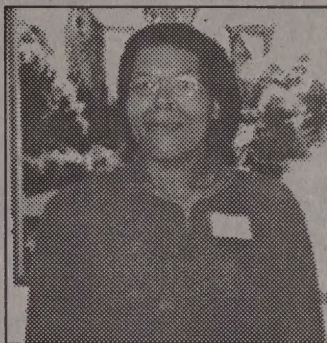
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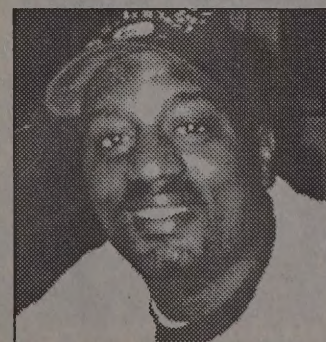
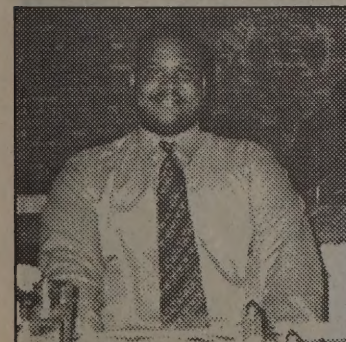
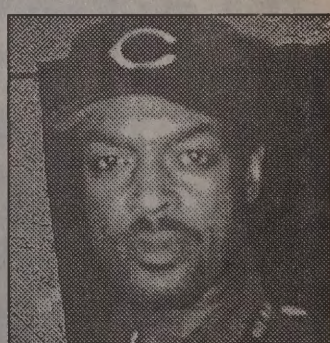
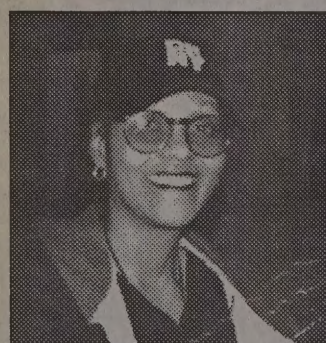
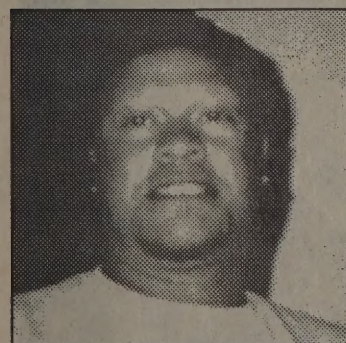
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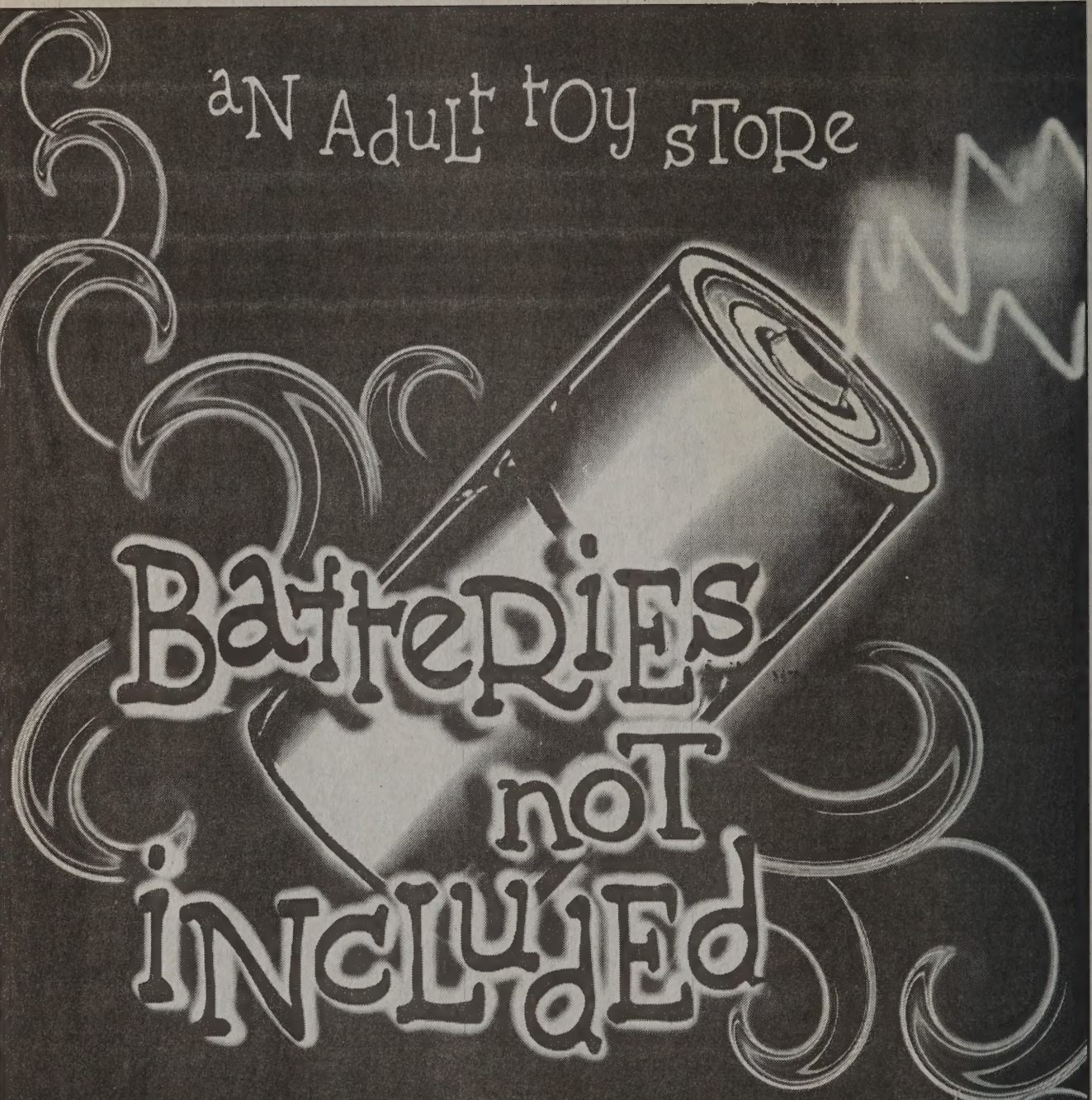


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inside for details
on Rocks Party
June 28, and for
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Community
Profiles, pg. 18-21.



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BLACK LINES

July 1998

Volume 3, Number 6

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Published by Lambda Publications, publishers

of: OUTLINES, Nightlines Weekly, En La Vida,

OUT! Resource Guide, CLOUT! Business Report

DEADLINES:

Editorial: 5th of each month

Advertising: the 10th

AVAILABLE LAST WED. Each MONTH

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LAMBDA PUBLICATIONS,

1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D,

CHICAGO, IL 60657 USA.

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ABOVE: Musician Carol 'Impy' Sims has died. See page 8 for details. The International Mr. Leather Weekend, held every year in Chicago, also now features lots of events for leathermen and leatherwomen of color. See p. 16.



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Editorial

by LaJaunessee
Jordan



Both of my brothers committed suicide. A couple of years ago, my oldest brother's death certificate cause of death read, "complications due to AIDS." It should have read, "alcohol, drugs and stupidity," thus suicide.

My favorite brother's suicide was representative of Webster's definition. Almost 20 years ago, this young man who was loved by everyone and was classified as a genius took his life.

Suicide—a word that causes a strange feeling within us whenever we hear it. Yet, I heard a report that three-quarters of the population admit that they have considered it at some point in their lives. Seventy-five out of a hundred people have thought about taking their own life. I strongly considered it twice—both times as a teenager, both times before my brother's suicide, and both times with a plan. Considering suicide and having a plan is most serious. (And no, my mother wasn't a terrible mother. She's a good one—just in case you were wondering.)

Diva Time on Lifetime: PATTI LaBELLE

by Steve Warren

Lifetime's "Intimate Portrait" series is nearly as formulaic as A&E's "Biography," which seems to have one basic script with a lot of blanks to be filled with the name and details of the subject. One key difference is that the "Intimate Portraits" are all of women, so the odds of seeing your favorite diva are at least doubled.

Perhaps it's a coincidence that portraits of two of those divas, Patti LaBelle and Delta Burke, are premiering during Pride Month. They will of course be repeated ad infinitum, if other activities make you miss them the first time.

Both shows reduce their subjects' lives to a series of triumphs and tragedies. Both were sexually molested as children and have recently written books; otherwise their stories are quite different. Patti had some low points and traumas in her career but her saddest times were losing her three sisters to cancer, one on the day she had planned to make peace with her, which has led Patti to preach from the stage that you shouldn't put off telling friends and family members you love them. Delta's problems have mostly been related to her weight, which has been scrutinized and gossiped about almost as much as Oprah Winfrey's and Elizabeth Taylor's.

Patti's hour, narrated by Lynn Whitfield (*Eve's Bayou*), features appearances by her husband and manager, Armstead Edwards; Bette Midler, Luther Vandross and former singing partner Cindy Birdsong, who left the Bluebelles in 1967 to become a Supreme. Nona Hendryx and Sarah Dash, who performed with Patti for 17 years, are conspicuous by their absence.

Devout fans of the ladies will already know their stories. They'll want to hear more of Patti's singing than the brief snippets of her hits included, often under narration (in which Whitfield repeatedly mispronounces "Lady Marmalade" as if she's never heard the record).

Patti was born Patricia Louise Holte outside of Philadelphia in 1944 and was known as Patsy. Delta Ramona Leah Burke was

Turn to page 17

I realize that the ambiguity that accompanies most suicides was present, as evidenced by my first plan. I was going to jump from the roof of our home. I didn't want to hurt myself. I just wanted to end my life, so I wasn't going to jump on the side with concrete. I was going to jump on the side with grass, which now tells me that would have been a cry for help and not really a suicide attempt. The second time, which was several years later—still as a teenager—I had a plan that would have taken me out. Right now, at this difficult moment of writing, I think about the difference I've made in the lives that I have touched, in the past 20 years, since (for reasons I can't recall) I didn't end my life. I didn't talk to anyone about it until about ten years later. Some never do.

As many of you know, the highest incidence of suicide among teenagers is in lesbians, gays and others struggling with their sexuality, in a surrounding world that, every day, says difference is not acceptable. Phyllis Pennese, the sister who trained me as a rape victim advocate, once told me about a learning experience that was assigned to help a group she was a part of gain more insight into what a differently abled person might encounter. She was to go to a store a few blocks away, in a wheelchair, make a purchase and return. She talked about the rawness of her hands, how the salesperson overlooked her and took care of people in line behind her first, and how the experience left an indelible mark on her mind. Wouldn't it be great if we came up with something like that for "straight" folks—gay for a day. But then, only those who wanted to gain something from the experience would.

So, here I am telling you about some pretty personal stuff—as I often do. When I began writing for BLACKLINES, I never imagined I'd share so much of me. But so many of you tell me about how helpful it is. So, what sparked this month's topic? Someone in the community shared with me that they are where I was 20 years ago—contemplating suicide.

I often work with clients who are considering or have attempted suicide, so I have some "professional training" in the area. But it's different when it's someone you know personally. Also, when I was told, I was PMSing, which didn't help matters. Although, my best friend said that when I feel I'm being bitchy during PMS, I'm really not. But I know I'm not as sweet and supportive then. I have to work on it during PMS, whereas, it generally comes without thought. So, to make a long story short, I don't know if I was helpful, but the person is still around. I believe in euthanasia but I think in cases of emotional pain/despair love and support in the community are extremely important in helping one get over an emotional hurdle that causes one to contemplate suicide, when family and straight friends may not be able to be part of the solution. We need each other 'cause sometimes we don't have anyone else. You may call the Suicide Prevention Advocacy Network at (888) 649-1366.

Thanks to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Veterans of America/Chicago Chapter for having me perform at your Flag Day event. The Vets have a 50-foot flag to carry in this year's Pride Parade. If you are a Vet and would like to help them with it (it takes 38 people) call them immediately at (773) 752-0058.

"After reading Giovanni's Room by James Baldwin, for the first time in my life, I felt I wasn't alone. Here was a Black man who wrote about something I felt deeply and had never admitted to anyone."
— E. Lynn Harris in Essence Magazine June, 1998

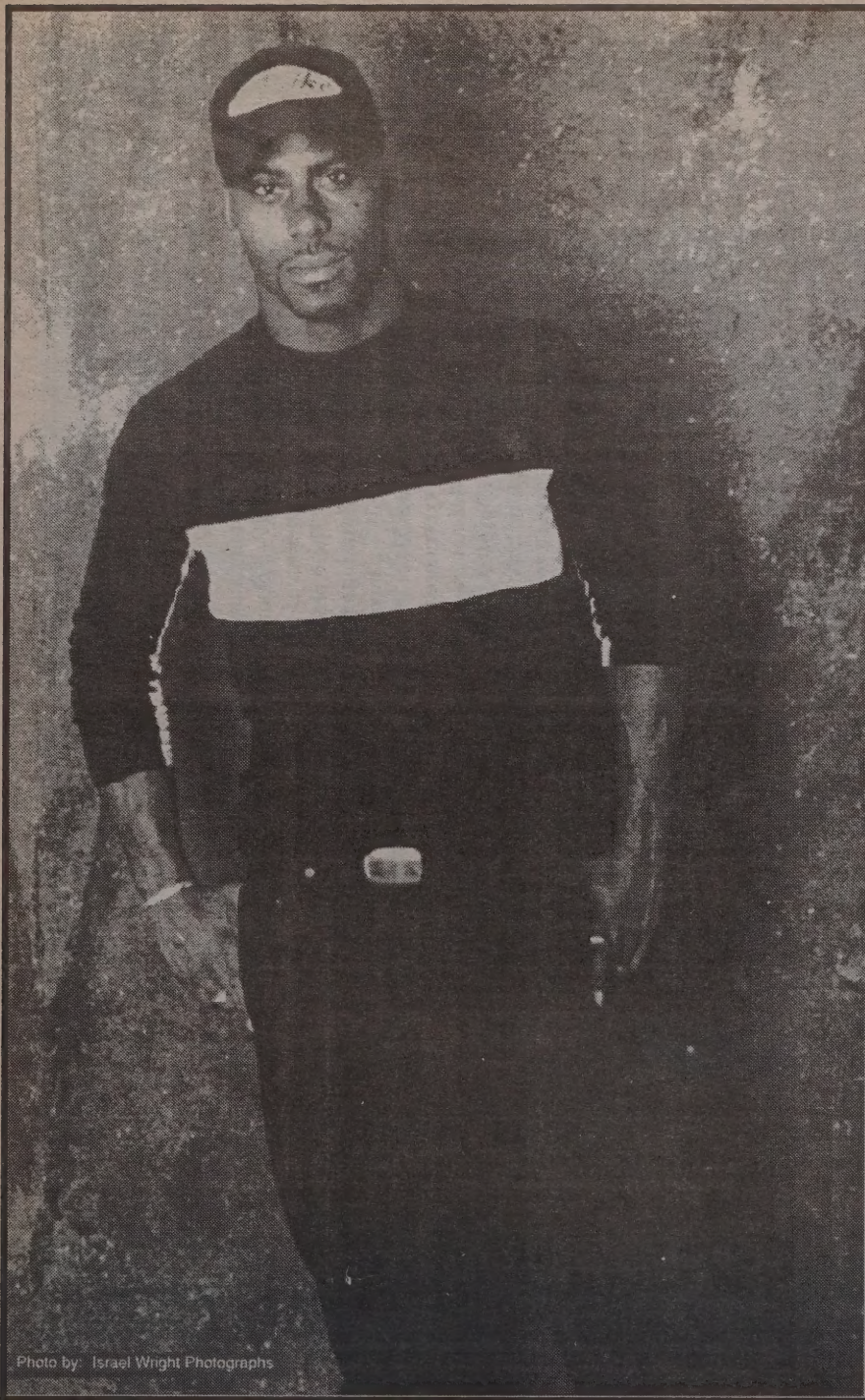
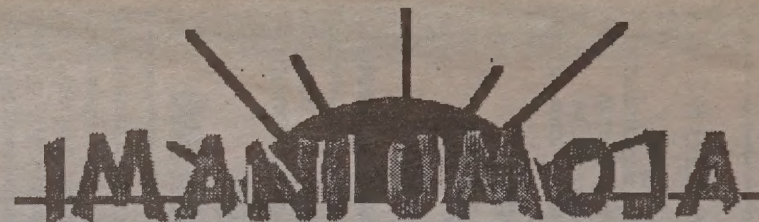


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Nat'l study finds many HIV patients not treated correct

by P.J. Engelbrecht

Results of the first National HIV/AIDS Treatment Survey show that 1 in 4 people beginning treatment for HIV are prescribed therapy that does not follow U.S. Health and Human Services guidelines for the use of antiretroviral agents or International AIDS Society (U.S.) HIV treatment guidelines. The survey also shows that women, Africa-Americans and Hispanics are most likely to receive sub-par treatment.

The national study was based on a Louis Harris telephone survey of 476 physicians conducted in cooperation with University of California-San Francisco AIDS research head Paul Volberding, MD, and Johns Hopkins University infectious diseases chief John Bartlett, MD. A Merck & Co. grant funded the study. The lead research physicians jointly announced the results June 3.

Polling found that doctors with the most experience treating HIV/AIDS are most likely to follow HHS recommendations and prescribe three or more antiretroviral medica-

tions when first initiating treatment for an HIV+ person (88% of the most experienced fifth would do so). These physicians also had the highest proportions of HIV+ patients in their practices, 53%.

The least experienced fifth of doctors polled not only were less likely to suggest the recommended treatment regime (just 67% would prescribe the recommended three or more drugs, such as a protease inhibitor plus two antiretrovirals), but what's worse, 25% of their patients actually "are prescribed therapy inconsistent with HHS Guidelines," according to the survey summary. Their "antiretroviral naive" patients may still be prescribed monotherapy, e.g., a single reverse transcriptase inhibitor (RTI), or a double RTI.

The least experienced doctors averaged two medications per prescribed regimen, while the most experienced averaged more than three drugs per regimen. "Triple therapy," multi-drug "cocktail" regimes are recommended even for early

treatment because they best suppress viral load while minimizing the virus' drug-resistance. More narrow regimes tend to promote treatment-resistant viral mutation, spelling bad news for present and future patients.

"Not suppressing viral replication to the greatest extent possible means that patients are more likely to experience symptoms of HIV, and

their risk of developing an AIDS-related infection may be increased," Bartlett explained. The wider hazard of causing harder strains of HIV—more treatment-resistant types of AIDS, that is—needs no explanation: it's dangerous.

White males get better care

Women and minorities are most threatened by sub-standard HIV treatments, the study reveals. By almost every measure, women and minorities receive lower quality care than do white men, on average. All together, 47% of HIV+ white men are treated by the top 40% of physicians, but that group treats only 33% of HIV+ women and minorities.

About half as many women as men are treated by highly experienced physicians, and three-quarters of women are treated by doctors at the lowest three levels of experience. Similarly, African-Americans and Hispanics are much more likely than whites to be treated by relatively inexperienced doctors (68% and 65%, respectively, vs. 54%).

"The study has revealed some troubling information about the obstacles to treatment that women and minorities face which may, in part, contribute to the increased rate of mortality seen among this patient population," Volberding said. He described women and minorities as the "growing segment of the population most affected by HIV."

The most up-to-date CDC data, from 1996, show AIDS death rates for women and minorities are rising, while death rates for white men have declined.

The new survey illuminates the appalling disparity in quality of HIV/AIDS treatment for women and minorities which underlies—and probably drives—the mortality rates.

Almost three-quarters of "AR naive" white men begin-

ning an initial drug regime were asymptomatic when their doctors initiated treatment (73%). But just 64% of women remain asymptomatic when treatment is begun, alongside 58% of African-Americans and 57% of Hispanics.

Furthermore, the women and minorities "have higher viral loads and lower CD4 cell counts when starting therapy."

"Generally ... the fewer the patients treated [by a physician], the higher the viral load is at treatment initiation or change," the survey shows, and "the least experienced physicians ... wait until viral load is the highest ... [on] average 33,000 VRNA."

Perhaps there's some hope. Over 90% of all doctors polled said that they "intend to include [protease inhibitors] in initial regimens one year from now." Small comfort to those PWAs suffering today under sub-standard care, consuming expensive drugs in ineffective regimes and facing imminent death as a result.

Bartlett and Volberding suggested that education is the key to better HIV/AIDS care. "It's clear that physicians who receive new information and education on an on-going basis are more likely to adopt and apply [HHS and IAS] treatment guidelines," said Volberding. "Likewise, patients who are familiar with the health benefits related to new treatments will more likely seek and receive the most aggressive care. ...

"Several organizations are actively involved in addressing the concerns raised by the findings of this survey," Volberding added, "and the IDSA is creating the HIV Medicine Association," which will develop criteria for the level of physician experience and commitment required for "high quality" HIV care. Volberding and University of Colorado professor Constance Benson, MD, will chair the new group.

PAID VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

African-American men who have sex with men are needed to participate in a research project at

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

(The study examines racial, sexual, and gender identity development)
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PASSAGES

Carol 'Impy' Sims

Carol "Impy" Sims, 40, died of complications from a broken ankle May 27. Her family and friends believe Sims didn't receive proper medical care following the broken ankle, and a blood clot formed and travelled to her lung. She died of a massive heart attack.

Sims was born and raised in Chicago. She went to Wendell Phillips and received her GED in the Job Corp in Tulsa, Okla. She attended Wilson Junior College, where she studied security and child development. She also had a degree in welding. Sims went into business for herself after her asthma condition hurt her chances of becoming a police officer in Evanston. She was a writer and poet, and among her works was "The Menu of Life."

Sims was also a well-respected musician and member of the Pulsations band, which plays at clubs and benefits around Chicago and the suburbs. Sims played bass guitar, congas and bongos, and was a former lead singer with Black Sabbath.

One of her proudest achievements was the founding of Heaven O, a travelling theatre troupe for kids ages 2-17. They perform at venues around town, and Sims' mother



Dorothy Carter and Sims' partner Laura Webb plan to continue Heaven O in Impy's name. (Donations can be sent to Heaven O, 7245 S. Damen, Chicago 60636; funds will help pay for instruments and other costs associated with the group). Several of the children from the group attended Impy's funeral.

"She opened her home to kids," Dorothy Carter told OUTLINES. "She was very unique, and she loved everybody, no matter what your status and health." She also loved animals, leaving behind three dogs and a cat. In addition to Laura and Dorothy, Sims is survived by four sisters

(including her twin), four brothers, many nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, aunts, uncles and dozens of cousins.

Jerry Christmas Homicide

Charged with first-degree murder in the January slaying of retired teacher Jerry Christmas, Theodore Teague appeared May 18 before Judge Themis Karnezis for a status hearing. As the discovery phase continues, Teague is scheduled for another status hearing on June 15 in Judge Karnezis' courtroom, 26th and California.

Teague is accused of murdering Christmas, a bisexual, in mid-January 1998. He has pled not guilty. Christmas was stabbed to death; his naked body was found in his bedroom with a noose around the neck. An acquaintance of the retired teacher, Teague reportedly was captured while driving Christmas' Lexus automobile.

PASSAGES:

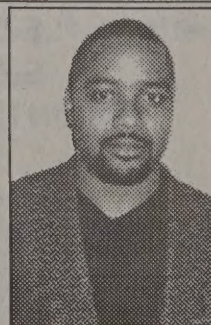
BLACKLINES also sends its condolences to Sherri Jackson, a longtime community activist, on the death of her sister.

LEADERSHIP FORUM INSTITUTES A NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM

The National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum has a new Management Team to oversee the daily operations of the organization. This structure was developed and approved by the organization's Board at their annual retreat in Denver May 15-17.

The Management Team is comprised of three board members, an NBLGLF staffer and the former national field director for the organization. Jubi D.

Headley, hired by NBLGLF almost three months ago, has resigned as the organization's second Executive Director, effective June 5, and will join the Board and serve on the Management Team. The additional members of the team are Willa J. Taylor, Board Chair; Ronald Johnson, Treasurer; Monique Meadows, NBLGLF Office Administrator; and Mandy Carter, Field Program Consultant for NBLGLF.



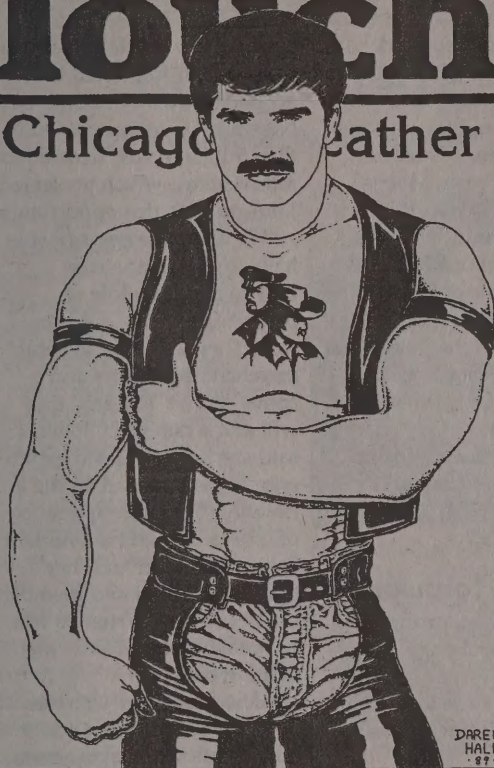
Headley.

Facing a serious financial shortfall due, in part, to unexpected revenue loss at this year's Annual Conference, the Board has taken this step to save money and to shift the responsibilities of managing NBLGLF to a team and not one individual.

The organization will be working over the next 24 months to implement a Strategic Plan which it hopes will put NBLGLF on solid programmatic and financial footing.

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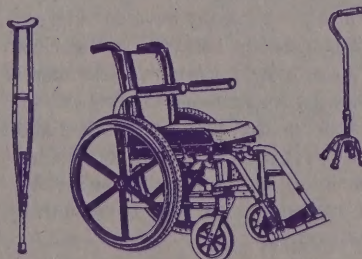
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Bell and Johnson Open Businesses in Area

by La Jaunessee Jordan

Alden Bell

Alden Bell, of ADODI Chicago, is an investor in a business that will be opening soon in Gary, Ind. **Cousin Morris' New Orleans Treats**, which will serve desserts and gourmet coffees, will be located at Buffington Harbor near the entrances to the Trump and Majestic Star Casinos. Two sisters, Olivia Chase and Nona Ocloo, said they came up with the idea a year ago to share mouth-watering recipes belonging to their grandmother and their cousin Morris Jones, Jr. Bell said he heard about the business venture and knew he wanted to become a part of it. "They are like sisters to me," he said.

The Amber Pyramid, the umbrella company for the

treats, has been operating for the past year and began with brownies, sweet potato cookies and praline cookies. The owners said they bought most of their ingredients from Whole Foods and decided to approach the store with the idea of selling their products.

"The (Whole Foods) bakery team leader in Lincoln Park loved our products and she told other bakery team leaders about them," Chase said. Because the store is going through some reorganization, the Treats are not available there now, Chase said. But they expect that to change soon. The Treats have also been sold at Showboat Casino located near their new site.

Bell, in addition to being an investor, is logistics manager

and is a big part of the day-to-day operations. His cheesecake recipes, including a turtle cheesecake, are also used.

Chase said they have gotten great support from local politicians. However, they said their greatest challenge is racism and sexism. Cousin Morris' New Orleans Treats will open at the end of June and there will be a grand opening celebration a couple of months later. They will be located on the first floor of the pavilion at Buffington Harbor in Gary, Ind., and will be open about 20 hours a day.

Bell said there are still job opportunities available. For more info call (773) 723-8989 or (219) 938-4680.

Donna Johnson

Donna Johnson, president of The Literary Exchange, recently became the owner of an off-street grocery store located in a high-rise building on the South Side.

ALL-ON-ONE (because it is

on the first floor), 7447 South Shore Drive, will open at the end of June. Johnson said the store was available a year ago and she was interested in acquiring it then but didn't. A Nigerian family purchased it then but have now decided to return home, which presented Johnson with this opportunity.

"We will have items people have forgotten about as they're in the middle of preparing dinner," Johnson said. They will have general merchandise, staples and a coffee service. She said they will add a deli soon. Johnson said she has no related experience in the area and so she is drawing from the experience of others. She said accountant Stephanie Coleman is her financial advisor and members of the Literary Exchange who have taken retail classes are helping her.

Johnson said she also has strong family support and it will be a family-run business.

▼▼▼▼

Relationships: Part I Man/Boy;

Sugar Daddy; Partners

by Lawrence Moore

As men, there are many types of relationship options available to us. Most gay men, when involved in a same-sex relationship, will fall into one of these types of relationships: "man/boy," "sugar daddy," or "partnership," or a variation of the three.

Man/boy: A man/boy relationship usually involves an older man with a younger man. The younger man may be older than 18; most of the time he is. In this type of relationship the older man usually acts as the mentor and the younger usually is the student or ward. Some classic examples: Batman and Robin, The Green Hornet and Kato. Batman wants Robin to grow up. He is there to help Robin overcome the difficulties and challenges of being a man. Robin is not going to be Batman's "boy wonder" all his life.

In this relationship the older man is providing stability, security, education, and training. The younger man is providing excitement, joy, and a purpose for the older's insight and energy. The older chooses the younger because in some way

the boy will add meaning and purpose to his life. The younger chooses the elder because in some way the elder is going to teach him something about becoming a man.

This is a great relationship. It has a great balance of give and take. However, built into this type of relationship is the end of it. The boy chooses a partner who has the ability to teach whatever it is that the younger needs to learn in order to become a man in his own eyes. Once the boy becomes a man there is no longer a need for that relationship. It ends, and maybe the individuals will become friends or take on different rolls that create a new relationship or just say good-bye.

Sugar Daddy: The sugar daddy relationship has the outward appearance of a man/boy relationship but internally it is completely different. In a "sugar daddy" relationship we usually have an older man (the "sugar daddy") and the younger man (the "sugar baby"). Here, the older man is also looking for someone to bring excitement into his life. The difference is that the older doesn't want to take on too much responsibility for the younger; he is not really interested in teaching or mentoring the younger.

The younger usually looks toward the elder for financial and material security.

Here, the younger is usually not interested in learning something either. He is not trying to become more responsible. This type of relationship can last until the younger man become boring to the older or the older no longer has the financial and material resources to satisfy the younger. A good example is Robinson Crusoe and Friday. Robinson was the master and Friday was the servant. Never in their relationship was this going to change. They both took care of each other; you may even say that they loved each other. The important thing here is that they both accepted their roles and were comfortable in them.

Partnership: The partnership is made up between equals. They may be equally screwed-up or talented. This type of relationship is formed when you don't want to face the world alone, but you are not ready to show someone else how he may face it or listen to someone else tell you how to face it. So, explore with someone who is relatively as competent or as incompetent as yourself. You may have contrasting and complimenting talents that support the relationship. This type of relationship ends when one of the partners feels that his life is moving in a different direction. What is usually behind this

Turn to page 17

History Through Storytelling

by Kathleen Rose Winter

In 1988, after leaving her seven-month-old son with his father in Mississippi, Lisa returned to Chicago intending to "make amends" with her mother. Lisa went to her aunt's house and from there the aunt called Lisa's mother. The aunt told Lisa's mother that Lisa was with her; she asked if Lisa could stay with her. An argument ensued and Lisa's mother responded with "I do not want her in my house. ... She can stay at the bus station!" Lisa stayed at her aunt's house, for two weeks, sleeping on the couch. This favorite aunt (the one who used to give Lisa money) had problems with her landlord, so Lisa had to eventually leave.

Lisa aunt's, with a hurting heart, suggested to Lisa that she contact her father. Lisa could only remember the past physical and emotional abuse from their relationship, however she had no other option. She unexpectedly went over to his house one morning. Her father was pleased to see her. They talked for awhile; he asked about his grandson. Lisa discovered that her father was divorced from his wife (the abusive stepmother from the past). He was now living with his brother, Lisa's uncle.

In his two-bedroom apartment, Lisa's father asked Lisa to stay with him. Lisa's uncle gave up his bedroom and he slept on the couch. She was thrilled that she had a place to stay, however, she remembered that her uncle was once convicted of brutally raping a little girl. There were no negative incidents involving her uncle; he basically treated her as his niece.

When Lisa arrived at her father's house, her uncle was



dying of what was said to be cancer. Approximately four months later he died; it was then disclosed that he died of complications from AIDS.

Lisa was anxious to be reunited with her past friends. As a young adult she wanted to begin her life—begin to enjoy her life. Still living with her father and without a job, he was her sole source of financial support. He did not approve of Lisa remaining out after certain hours. He demanded a curfew; she says he "treated her like a child." Lisa began to feel the old flashbacks of abuse, so she left his house (after living there three months) and went to her Godmother's house. Staying there eight months, Lisa found a job as a cashier. This job lasted four months.

Lisa fell into a deep depression—not returning to work, not leaving her bed, and too depressed to clean herself or her room. Lisa stayed in darkness (including a dark bedroom) only getting up at night, when everyone else was asleep, in order to eat and roam throughout the house.

Finally, Lisa's Godmother, who was blind at the time, came into Lisa's bedroom, grabbed her from the bed and insisted that Lisa "get some help" for her psychological

problems. The Godmother "touched" throughout the room, looking for Lisa and warning, "don't try to sneak past me, cause I can smell and hear real good." In the arms of her Godmother, Lisa cried every tear that had been waiting some 20 years for release. Her Godmother took her to Cook County Hospital where they sedated her and sent her onto Mt. Sinai Hospital. She stayed there three weeks and was diagnosed with manic-depression.

Medicated, she was sent to a shelter on 63rd Street. After a week, Lisa went to visit her Godmother who had "slipped" into a depression due to her blindness and the many surgeries that she had endured. Her Godmother was glad Lisa was there but Lisa realized that her Godmother needed time to heal herself and would not be able to handle Lisa's problems.

While leaving her Godmother's house, Lisa accidentally met her father. He had not seen her for several months (since her uncle's funeral). He was concerned about her when he heard about the psychological problems that she was having. When he discovered that she was living in a shelter, he

invited her to live in his house. There she lived with her father's under her father's rules, along with a male cousin. Her father resumed his verbal abuse. Lisa stayed there less than a month.

Lisa returned to her Godmother to live downstairs with her Godmother's mother. Lisa says that finally, she found some sanctuary, some peace; she stayed there three years.

During this time Lisa, even though she knew she was a lesbian, became involved with a man, and thus became pregnant. (Lisa states that she was trying to get pregnant.) At this time she knew nothing of a "gay community," only of "an underground" community of "bulldaggers" that were her friends. They had sexual encounters, but it was more covert than obvious and accepting.

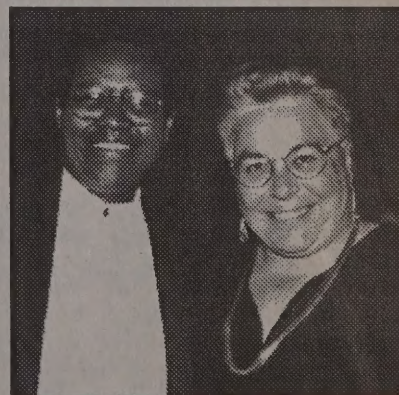
Lisa's story is more complicated than I had anticipated. I must continue telling her history. Next time, I will end focusing on her psychological problems, her lesbianism, her new beginning, and her continued struggle to survive in an environment that demands an enduring strength.

Vernita Gray wins County honor

Vernita Gray, lesbian victim/witness coordinator for the Cook County State's Attorney Office, has been chosen as a Cook County Superior Public Service Award winner in recognition of her outstanding performance and excellence in the administration of her duties as a public servant.

Cook County Board President John Stroger awarded Gray for her service at a ceremony June 16.

PICTURED: Vernita Gray (left) with Joanne Trapani, openly lesbian Trustee of Oak Park, at the recent Oak Park Area Gay and Lesbian Association annual gala. Photo by Tracy Baim



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Seating begins 1/2 hour before each update.

Light refreshments served during this time.

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to provide an update on the 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva to medical providers, allied healthcare professionals, and people affected by HIV. This program will include information on recent developments in the understanding of HIV pathogenesis; current strategies for the use of anti-retroviral therapy; new data on viral dynamics, drug resistance, and immune reconstitution; and current concepts in the prophylaxis and treatment of opportunistic infections.

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Theatre

Previews/Opening Nights

June 24: Mumbett: The Story of Elizabeth Freeman True story, black woman's suit for freedom in 18th century Boston. Women's Theatre Alliance New Plays Festival, Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W. Chicago. (312) 408-9910

June 26: For What? or Looking for Lenin in all the Wrong Places by David Parris. Chicagoan David Parris finds himself outside Moscow making bar-be-que with eight non-English speaking Russian gay men, knows he's missed his bus to Lenin's tomb. His efforts to understand his Russian-emigre's lover's roots lead to charming confusion. Thru July 12. Part of Pride Series (773) 883-1090

June 26: Lesbian & Gay Pride Edition of Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind an all-queer version of *Too Much Light..*, (773) 275-5255

June 26: Play On! Dazzling romantic fable of 40s Harlem with Duke Ellington songs. Plot inspired by Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, young girl takes A Train to Harlem to write songs for the Duke, but must don sharp pin-striped suit and become Vy-man. Thru Aug 9. Goodman (312) 443-3800

June 27: Fitting In customers held at gunpoint; **Katy and Judy** about lesbian couple coping with the death of their dog. Women's Theatre Alliance New Plays Festival, Chicago. Dramatists, (312) 408-9910

July 1: A Real Read Comin' Straight at Cha' Show African American Lesbians trans performance troupe in new summer special featuring Ronda Bedgood, C.C. Carter, Sanford Gaylord, Derrick Jones, Lynell S. Long, Byron Stewart, Shannon Sudduth. Also July 1, 2, 3, & 5, 7:30 pm. Ballwick Repertory 1229 W. Belmont. (773) 883-1090

July 13: Blue Coyote Blues Feminist/lesbian fantasy for stage, this whimsical comedy in four scenes winks at forces of nature, personality that color our passions, fears. Part of "Stories of Our Lives..." series at Gerber/Hart (773) 271-9287

July 20: Traffic A Night of Performance Art, including Ellington is not a Street. High octane performance art with inconoclastic multi-cultural performance artists Guillermo Gomez-Pena, provocative playwright and poet Ntozake Shange and dynamic percussionist Kahil El'Zabar. 7:30 pm. Steppenwolf Th, (312) 335-1650

In Performance

Beautiful Thing Awakening love between two teen boys in working-class southeast London. Thru June 28. Famous Door (773) 327-5252

Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk Tix on sale now for ground breaking Tony winner ensemble musical based on an idea of Savion Glover & George C. Wolfe. Rhythms, energies of tap celebrate history of beat with text, music, songs, poetry. Thru July 7. Shubert, Tix on sale now. Ticketmaster

Chicago's Golden Soul Musical celebration of producers, songwriters, artists who propelled Chicago 60s-70s soul music, Black Ensemble Th, (773) 769-4451

Coming Of the Hurricane ex-slave fights for survival in post-Civil War South. Organic Touchstone, 2851 N Halsted (773) 404-4700

Dance

June 26: National Africa Fête Tour '98 Free outdoor festival, 4-9pm. Krannert Center Urbana U of I College of Fine and Applied Arts. (718) 522-7171 or Africa Fête website: www.africafete.com.

Communities of Women

Art Show opens July 11, includes Juarez Hawkins, Simone Bouyer and more.

June 26: Motivity: A Choreographers Festival Seven Chicago young choreographers in third of three very different shows in three weekends of performance. Previews each preceding Monday in Harold Washington Library Auditorium, shows in Links Hall, 3435 N Sheffield (773) 525-8918

Art/Photo

Aldo Castillo Gallery 5 year anniversary celebration show. Photos by Herméticas Luis Gonzalez Palma thru June 27. 233 W. Huron (312) 337-2536

Communities of Women Art Gallery From My Center Four African-American, Chicago area women artists, Simone Bouyer, Juarez Hawkins, Sylvia Westbrook, Donna Joy Wolfe (various media) discourse on inspiration, the driving



A Real Read, opens July 1

force behind their works. Recep July 11, 2-6pm. Show thru Sept 12. 30 E. Adams. (773) 275-1319

The Dusable Museum of African American History New exhibit *Fight to Fly: Blacks in Aviation*, photos, materials. (773) 947-0600

Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum Arte Contemporáneo Jalisciense. Contemporary works from the permanent collection to the Museo de las Artes of the University of Guadalajara. Martha Pacheco, *Self Portrait*, pencil on paper; Alejandro Colunga, *The Wizard of the Spheres*, oil on canvas. Sunday tours in English, noon.

Scott's Paintings by Relando Rerrone. Indian Art airbrush, thru Aug 18. Montrose Ave.

Woman Made Gallery Lesbian Visual Artists 24 works by 14 artists reflecting lesbian experiences from different points of view, juried by Ann Tyler, School of the Art Institute. Cathy Cade's *Kali Back*, *Kissing Back*, hand-colored photocopies from Lesbian, Gay Freedom Day Parade. *Diseased parts, dismembered*, fiber sculptures by Chicago artist Meredith Grover, past, present identities with traditional/contemporary techniques, materials have organic qualities. *40 Year Old Dyke*, Linda Kiewer's immense grouping of photos responds to having no positive lesbian images growing up, creating her own. All thru June 26. *House Show*, about, in, symbols of & shapes of houses July 10-31. *The Perfect Shade of Blue Works* by Barbara Bansley incorporating her visual artworks, performance, July 10, 5pm & July 16, 6pm. Show thru July 31. *The Members' Show*, group exhibit thru Aug 28. *Animal Stories* juried by Kim Hoffman thru Oct 9. (312) 328-0038. 1900 S Prairie.



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CALENDAR

Wed., June 24

A Real Read on WTTW-TV Ch 11 (PBS) show *Artbeat*, 7:30p; rebroadcasts Fri 6/26 11p, Sun 6/28 11p! (773) 271-6054.

Bailwick Repertory PRIDE SERIES '98 continues w/ Chicagoan David Paris' gaily Russian bbq nocturne (cd it be comedie?). For *What? Or Looking for Lenin In All the Wrong Places*. Opens tonite 8p, \$15, thru July 12. Pride Series subscriptions (6 shows) \$75. @ Bailwick Arts Center's Studio Theater, 1229 W Belmont. Tix (773) 883-1090.

Berlin Disco Wed, DJ Mark Kelly. 954 Belmont. (773) 348-4975.

GAMBA ("warrior") support group facilitated by Charles Nelson under BROTHERS Community Awareness Network (Brothers CAN) meets 2nd & 4th Weds. 7-9p, at Minority Outreach Intervention Project, 1255 S Wabash. (773) 752-7867. Tonite's topic, "Gender Roles: Who's Who?"

Greater Chicago Committee holds Jewel-Osco Shop & Share fundraising prog thru Wed, June 24 at all Chicagoland Jewel-Osco stores! Buy what ya gotta buy anyhow to do extra good. 5% of yr total purchase (excluding tax) donated to GCC, to help fund Prevention Proj, incl Rubber Bros & SASS (Sisters Advocating Safer Sex)! For required shopper ID slip, call Derrick Hicks (312) 670-9660. PLUS, when attending Pride Day Rocks celebration, bring yr Jewel-Osco receipt & 4+ canned goods for donation to Open Hand Chi-South Side Prog & receive a GCC Health Prog gift! Info (312) 661-9153.

Imani Umoja discussion group for gay & bi brothers of color meets 2nd & 4th Wednesdays-feeling & healing the spirit during Black History Month & all year 'round! At Sinai Family Health Centers, Grand Blvd. Plaza, 5401 S Wentworth. Info Preston Shumaker, workshop coordinator (773) 907-8993.

Prairie Moon Book discussion of Rebecca Well's novel, *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*. 7p. 864 E Northwest Hwy, Mount Prospect. (847) 342-9614.

Thursday, June 25

ACGLI (CHRC Advisory Council on Gay & Lesbian Issues) Mayor's Annual Pride Reception, 5:30-7p @ the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington. (312) 744-7911.

BUNGALO (Berwyn United Neighborhood Gay & Lesbian Org) Peter Berkeley discusses new book on financial & estate planning for lesbians, lecture/workshop format. 7-9p @ Berwyn Public Library, 2nd fl community rm, 2701 S Harlem, Berwyn, (708) 216-9723.

Chicago Cultural Center "Birthdays @ the CCC"-today, cabaret artists Alexandra Billings

& Gino de Luca anticipate another year for pop maven Carly Simon (this time, the song is about her), 1p, free. @ Randolph Cafe, 77 E Randolph. (312) 744-1426.

Club inta presents "An Intimate Affair," the women's place to meet and greet-cuz girls just wanna have fun! Music by Chicago's hottest DJ, lavish buffet, private rooms available to rent, drink specials, valet pkg. Thurs 8pm-Untill. 308 W Erie. Info (312) 664-6595.

National Women's Music Festival Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana Performers incl Suede, Lucy Blue Tremblay, Toshi Reagan, Heather Bishop, Nedra Johnson, Kate Clinton, Karen Williams & Vickie Shaw; speakers incl Holly Near, Dorothy Allison, Prof Anita Hill. Info (317) 927-9355.

Ravinia Festival Jazz Week: today, Salute to Benny Goodman w/ Eddie Daniels; the Count Basie Orchestra w/ Joe Williams, & more! In Highland Park, Ill. Tix (847) 266-0641.

Taste of Chicago in Grant Park, thru July 5. (312) 744-3370.

Temptations Promo Bash sponsored by Capt Morgan & Parrot Bay. @ 10235 W Grand, Franklin Park, (847) 455-0008.

The Vix "Bid Whist at Vix" begins 8pm, no cover. 2814 N Halsted. (773) 529-3999.

Women & Children First Patricia Monaghan offers "Images of the Goddess: A Celebration of her Variety," 7:30p. (773) 769-9299.

Friday, June 26

Cafe Pride Pride Week Dance Party for Under-21 crowd. DJ Kris Luck spins the classics and runs the lights. Ping-pong, dancing, darts, games, conversation. No cover. non-denominational spiritual outreach to sexual minority communities. 8p-midnite Fridays. @ Parish House of LakeView Presbyterian Church, 716 W Addison. Info (773) 784-2635; email Cafepride@rocket-mail.com; go to www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Village/1455. (Donations to "Pride Ministries" gladly accepted; call for details.)

Cell Block Slaves to Pride III auction benefits Leather Archives & Museum, 10p. 3702 N Halsted. (773) 665-8064.

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus presents "TRUE PRIDE: A Celebration of Song, Gay Life & Family," Annual Pride Concert, 8p tonite & Sat, \$15-\$22. @ Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N Southport. Tix (312) 902-1500 or (773) 7294.

Girlbar celebrates Pride Weekend: 2-yr Anniversary Bash! All house shots 2cents! 2625 N Halsted. (773) 871-4210.

Greater Chicago Committee (GCC) Black BLACK Party 4 features cash bar, food & dancing! Guests don black or African attire to celebrate Af-Am history at this Black Gay Pride Weekend festivity. 10p-2a, \$10 adv. @ The Vix, 2814

N Halsted. Info (312) 670-9660.

Horizons Community Services Center PRIDEFEST '98: Dancin' Under the Stars! Annual outdoor pride dance features rafles, carnival games, dunk tanks, cruising, boozing & dancing, too! DJ Dominic Bercelli spins faves from 70s, 80s, 90s. 8p-12a, \$15. @ Ann Sather pig lot, off 900-block Belmont Ave. PLUS Horizons' new Older Adult Prog hosts mixer for LGBT community members 45+ & older, prior to dance 6:30-8p, free buffet, inside Ann Sather's. (773) 472-6469, x257.

Interweave Film Series screens LGBT history classic *Before Stonewall*; film interviewee, Chicagoan Geo Buse will attend. 7:30p, free. @ Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 875 Lake St, Oak Park, Ill. Info Rev Jay Deacon (708) 848-6225; go to www.unitytemple.org.

Kindred Hearts Women's drumming circle, 7:30p. @ the fire pit on Northwestern University campus, Evanston, Ill. Info/directions (847) 604-0913. (Neither own drum nor experience necessary!)

Last House on the Block Gay-Closed AA meetings 7-8p every Fri. @ Hyde Park Neighborhood Club, 5480 S Kenwood. Info Jackie (312) 366-4573.

Neo-futurist Gay & Lesbian Pride Edition of Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind All-queer version benefits Gerber/Hart Library. 11:30p tonite, 8p Benefit Performance & 11:30p Sat, 7p Sun, \$5-10, donations accepted, too. 5153 N Ashland. Info (773) 275-5255.

Ravinia Festival Jazz Week: today, Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, dir Wynton Marsalis, & more! In Highland Park, Ill. Tix (847) 266-0641.

Roscoe's "Shaken not Stirred" specials; 50s-style buffet; VJ Bobby Marley 5p. 3354-6 N Halsted. (773) 281-3355.

Roseland Community Hospital offers free confidential testing for women on Nat'l HIV Testing Day. 10a-1p, no apt-1st come, RCH, 45 W 111th St, 3rd fl. Info (773) 995-3469.

T-PAN (Test Positive Aware Network) hosts outdoor "family reunion" commemorating 11th anniv. BBQ! Food, drink & music. 5-8p. @ T-PAN backyard, 1258 W Belmont. Info Patrick (773) 404-8726.

Saturday, June 27

3rd Annual Dyke March steps off 2:30p, this yr in Andersonville. Assembly begins 2p on corner of Foster & Ashland; rally follows @ Berwyn/Foster Beach, w/ Chilesbian performers & presentations by community groups. All queer-identified women welcome-dyke, bi, trans or straight. Info (312) 409-3705.

ADODI July retreat org/planning mtg 5-6:30p, @ MOIP, 1255 S Wabash, 2nd fl. Donations/vols welcome! Info (312) 458-9584.

Barbara's Bookstore & Gerber/Hart Library Glenlivet Salon presents gay poet Mark

Doty rdg fr new body/revitalization-themed collection *Sweet Machine*. G/H (773) 883-3003.

Cell Block Pride weekend festivities continues w/ Leather Swap 2-6p! DJ Freddie Bain, holding cell 10p. 3702 N Halsted. (773) 665-8064.

Chicago Gay & Lesbian Neighborhood Tour Special bus tour sponsored by the city Office of Tourism retraces the steps of Chi's unwritten lesbian history, from 40s Halloween Balls to 50s-60s bar raids to the civil rights struggle that's ongoing. Lambda's own history queen, Sukie dela Croix is your indefatigable tour guide! \$43 (lunch incl). (312) 742-1190.

Chicago Women's Health Center Huge sidewalk sale benefit! Clothing, furniture & more. 8a-2p. @ 950 W Newport. Info (773) 935-6126.

Club Intimus Pride Party bash at 312 W Randolph

Generator G's 2nd Annual Gay Pride Picnic! Free food, pop & music noon-9p! @ Irving Pkwy & LSD, watch tower.

Girlbar Hottest Women's Pride Dance Party! \$2 vodka lemonades. 2625 N Halsted. (773) 871-4210.

Good Shepherd Parish MCC presents "The Wedding" ceremony for committed lesbian & gay couples, Rev. Wayne Bradley officiates; (773) 472-8708.

Grant Park Music Festival Free concert series: tonite, centennial Paul Robeson Tribute concert, featuring soprano Elizabeth Norman & Grant Pk Symphony Orchestra (dir Leslie P Dunner). 7:30p, free (doors open 6:30p & early arrival rec; free pkg). @ So. Shore Cultural Center, 7059 So. Shore Dr. (312) 742-4763.

Harriet Tubman Place Pathfinders offers tons of cool ops for GLBT or questioning people: (773) 626-1443. 5903 W Fulton, #1W.

Home Access Health Corp offers for free its pro telephone consultation services on how to discuss HIV testing w/ one's partner, for Nat'l HIV Testing Day. Info (847) 781-2500; go to www.napwa.org.

Howard Brown Health Center offers free anonymous HIV testing & counseling for Nat'l HIV Testing Day. 9a-3p. @ 4025 N Sheridan Rd. Appointment (773) 388-1600.

Lake County Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Leadership Alliance & Joy of Life MCC Church host 2nd annual GLBT event, featuring BBQ 1-3p, Emerald City in the eve. Info-(847) 263-5197.

Lakefront SRO Chicago homeless persons' nonprofit benefits from 5th annual Home & Garden Tour in/ear New Buffalo, Mich. 10a-5p, tix \$65 (lunch incl), avail from Lovell & Whyte, 14950 Lakeside Rd, Lakeside, Mich. (773) 561-0900.

Lesbian & Gay Projects of the ACLU host 3rd annual "Girls On Top '98" outdoor pride party & benefit in Andersonville, featuring Los Walde, Derivative Duo, GayCoProD, Molycoddle & Babes w/ Blades! 7-11p, \$25adv/\$35door. @ Clark &

Summerdale. Info Marcia Liss (312) 201-9740, x303.

National Coalition for Lesbian Mothers & Children invites women of all ethnicities, 6-9pm. (708) 686-7369.

Proud to Run 10K & 5K runs, 2 mile fun walk pride week event benefits Lesbian Community Cancer Project, Minority Outreach Intervention Project, Pride Youth & Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU. Racetime 8a. Reg @ Sidetrack, Girlbar by June 26 \$17; race day \$20. Carbo load dinner Fri nite \$10. Participate & raise pledges; contributions also gladly accepted! Details: race hotline (312) 409-8991; Frontrunners/Frontwalkers (312) 409-2790; go to www.entract.com/~frwchgo/PTPR98. LCCP needs volunteers to help out on race day: call Sarah Henry (773) 561-4662.

"Woman on Bike" African Benefit Kabuka Kamunga, a Congolese chemist, will bike from Chicago to Kinshasa, Congo, beginning 10,000-mile ride here Sept 1. Tonite's event benefits the ride (15%), but mostly helps support Nsanga Lubangu, a traditional medicine clinic in Congo (85%). Event features cocktails, African dinner, African medicine presentations, African dance party. 6:30p, \$12+. @ 4740 N Racine. Checks to "Kabuka Kamunga," 1063 W Glenlake, Apt 1, South Chicago, IL 60660. Info (773) 769-6752, 274-7267 or 381-4037.

Sunday, June 28

PRIDE DAY!! Chicago's 29th Annual PARADE steps off 2p from Halsted and Belmont, goes north on Halsted to Broadway, south on Broadway, east on Diversey to Lincoln Park. After-parade rally 3:30-8 p.m. at Wellington and the Lake (3000 N Lake Shore Dr), with gay NFL vet Dave Kopay, live music by Pulsation (Chi lesbian band), Loree Lynn & a surprise entertainer, food, drinks, info tables and more. PRIDEChicago coordinators (773) 348-8243.

12th World AIDS Conference: Bridging the Gap. In Geneva, Switzerland, thru July 3. Registration phone +46 8 459 6600; <webcast.aid98.org>

All Jokes Aside Comedy Club Gay Pride Night features Mike Bonner, George Willbor, Melanie Camacho & host Flame Monroe. 7p, \$13 benefits Transgenesis. 1000 S Wabash. (312) 654-2957/(773) 643-0245.

Generator Usual Sun fare: Boyz Nite Out Sundays: Otis Mack directs Heavy Diva Prods' dynamic, star-studded weekly show & dance party, hosted by Chi's own Heavy Diva! Showtime 12:30a, 9p-4a, \$5, 306 N Halsted. (773) 243-8889.

Girlbar celebrates Pride Weekend: 1st-ever Girlblast-huge outdoor women's tea dance! Featuring DJs Jim Lewis & Gloria, music, dancing, food, beer. Immed after Parade in pkg lot of Guitar Center, 2633 N Halsted (4 doors down from Girlbar), \$5 cover benefits HBHC Women's

Prog, Horizons & HRC. [Girlbar @ 2625 N Halsted. (773) 871-4210.]

Let's Get Funky on Pride Day Jennifer & Lynda present salsa & house music all day long, DJs Slick & Lugo & special guest DJ Frankie Day, sand v-ball, raffles & cookout! 4-10p, \$5 before 5p, \$7 after. @ The Prop House, 1675 N Elston. Info (773) 581-6531.

MACT-Chicago (Men of All Colors Together) Some members will march in Pride Parade w/ Resurrection MCC of Hyde Park; others, meet in front of North end Bar for festivities; later, the Rally, the Rocks, bar hop, dinner or ??? Info (312) 409-6916

New Town Alano Club hosts 5p open house & 6p meeting w/ refreshments (alcohol & drug-free). @ NTAC, 909 W Belmont. Info (773) 529-0321.

Rainbow Fusion: A Funky Fiesta Pride Youth program of LINKS-North Shore Youth Health Service, sponsors a dance party for lesbian, bi, trans, gay young people ages 23 & under. Plus drag shows & goodie tables! 6-9 p, \$5. Ann Sather's, Belmont, (5, 847) 441-9880.

Rocks Party Belmont and the Lake, organized by coalition of Black lesbian/gay groups. Info (773) 384-4356. Food, fun, music, dancing, politicians, games, socializing and more.

Sand Blast 1998 Annual tea dance/party along lake, south of Waveland golf course, 4-10 p.m., \$30, coordinated by Howard Brown Health Center, also benefits ACLU & Stephen Braham Fndtn.

Monday, June 29

Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center
Groups for sexual minority youth:
Matteson; (708) 747-2701.

Tuesday, June 30

BROTHERS United Together HIV+ men's discussion group org by Brothers C.A.N. meets Tuesdays 7-9p, @ Stop AIDS, 1718 E 75th St. (773) 752-7867.
Labor for Jesse White hosts fundraising reception for White, Dem candidate for Ill Sec'y of State. 5-7p, \$100+. @ Excalibur, 632 N Dearborn.

Wed., July 1

A Real Read Chi's premiere Af-Am LGBT performance ensemble "Comin' Straight at 'Cha Show"! 7:30p, July 1, 2, 3 & 5 @ Bailiwick Repertory, (773) 883-1090.

At the Beach 10th Anniversary thru July 5 in Los Angeles, (213) 293-4ATB.
Bailiwick Repertory PRIDE SERIES '98 concludes w/ Chicago's own & America's only African American lesbian/gay/trans performance troupe, *A Real Read* in their summer special. Opens tonite 8p, \$15; plays July 2, 4 & 5, 8p, \$15. @ Bailiwick Arts Center's Main Stage, 1229 W Belmont. Tix (773) 883-1090.

Film Center SAIC All July, Center features films w/ Af-Am legend Paul Robeson, (312) 443-3737.

Thursday, July 2

Rails Group kicks off HOT Independence Weekend w/ Grammy winner Frankie Knuckles @ Crobar tonite—plus hosts Frederick Dunson & Dennis Evens! 10p-4a, \$12. @1543 N Kingsbury. (312) 243 2075. Rails/Chocolate City info (708) 802-1705; email skxyred97@aol.com; go to www.ChocolateCityUSA.com.

The Vix "Bid Whist at Vix" begins 8pm, no cover. 2814 N Halsted. (773) 529-3999.

Friday, July 3

Cafe Pride non-denominational spiritual outreach to sexual minority communities. 8p-midnite Fridays. @ Parish House of

LakeView Presbyterian Church, 716 W Addison. Info (773) 784-2635

MACT-Chicago (Men of All Colors Together) Theatre Outing Benefit! New performance of "A Real Read." 7:30p, \$20, reserves Pat Carron (708) 448-1914. @ Bailiwick Repertory Theatre, 1229 W Belmont. Info (312) 409-6916

Music Box High lesbian art indeed! Sundance & Cannes award-winner *High Art* stars Ally Sheedy, Radha Mitchell opens lid engagement tonite. 3733 N Southport. (773) 871-6604.

Rails Group HOT Independence Weekend continues! Tonite, THE FEAST: All You Can Eat, an underground dance party & safe sex display w/ "the Hottest Brothas & Sistahs from coast to coast: Kendall Beatty, Bernard Johnson, Eric Cabbler... & more! 5 DJs, 3 Dance floors & Soundz, ONE warehouse!! Plus Tiger Tyson & Chocolate Covered Erotic Dancers for dessert! \$8 adv, \$10 before 1a, \$12 after (adv tix on sale now). @ Club Voyage (formerly the Warehouse), 738 W Randolph, (312) 454-9004. AND Jazz Set & Dance Party, DJ Vic. 6p-2a, \$8 @ The Vix, 2814 N Halsted, (773)

The Rocks Party Blast ... Sunday, June 28, all day, Belmont & The Lake

529-3999. AND After Work Social hosted by Larry Johnson, 2p-2a, \$3 @ Club Escape, 1530 E 75th St, (773) 667-6454. Rails/Chocolate City info (708) 802-1705; email skxyred97@aol.com; go to www.ChocolateCityUSA.com.

Saturday, July 4

ADODI July retreat org/planning mtg 5-6:30p, @ MOIP, 1255 S Wabash, 2nd fl. Donat./vols welcome! (312) 458-9584.
Executive Sweet 4th of July Celebration! 9p-3a, \$10. @ 330 S Marshfield (Local 705 HQ). Info (773) 375-7144. Pat and Vera welcome you.

HotHouse Afrique & HH present "Dancin' in the Diaspora," w/ Victor Parra's Mambo Express. 9:30p, \$8. @ 31 E Balbo, (773) 235-2334.

Rails Group HOT Independence Weekend continues! Tonite, DANCE Party hosted by DJ Dana 10p-5a, \$5 @ Club Escape, 1530 E 75th St, (773) 667-6454. AND Jazz Set & Dance Party w/ DJ Vic 6p-2a, \$8 @ The Vix, 2814 N Halsted, (773) 529-3999. AND Dance Party w/ DJ Dana 10p-5a, \$5 @ the Generator, 306 N Halsted, (312) 243-8889. AND The Mack Party/Safer Sex Party hosted by BlackBoyz Prods, info (773) 918-5139. Rails/Chocolate City info (708) 802-1705; email skxyred97@aol.com.

Sunday, July 5

Rails Group HOT Independence Weekend continues! Today, Picnic @ The Rocks hosted by Chicago Friends, noon-sunset, free (bring a bottle to share w/ friends), @ Irving Plwy & the lakeshore. AND Blackman Breakfast @ The Vix—"Grits & Eggs" hosted by Vic, 9a-3p @ 2814 N Halsted, (773) 529-3999. AND Club Escape Card Tournament hosted by Larry Johnson, 2p-2a, free, @ 1530 E 75th St, (773) 667-6454. Rails/Chocolate City info (708) 802-1705; email skxyred97@aol.com; go to www.ChocolateCityUSA.com.

Queer Beat Science 1st-ever queer hip-hop dance party premieres tonite! All

queer genders, all queer ethnicities. Featuring resident q-DJs Bathsheba & Gigglybette + special guest Daniel Givens. (3rd Suns starting Aug 16.) 10p+, \$3 cover. @ Hothouse, 31 E Balbo. Info (773) 342-4597.

Monday, July 6

Lesbian Community Cancer Project discussion/support group for women affected by cancer, incl survivors, caregivers, friends & family. 1st Mons, 7-9p, free. @ LCCP offices, 4753 N Broadway, suite 602. Info (773) 561-4662.

Navy Pier Skyline Stage Patti Austin w/ Alex Bugnon. 8p. Tix (312) 559-1212.

Rails Group HOT Independence Weekend concludes w/ Clubhouse at Convent: Talent Show & Dance Party hosted by Bob Yeaworth, w/ J Mike Ezeukwu & DJ Ron Carroll, 11p-4a, \$5 @ 1529 W Armitage, (773) 395-8660. Rails/Chocolate City info (708) 802-1705; email skxyred97@aol.com; go to www.ChocolateCityUSA.com.

Wed., July 8

Berlin Women Obsession Wed. 954 W Belmont (773) 348-4975.

Thursday, July 9

Affinity 2nd Thurs Lez Chat Group meets 7-8:30p; Mary York, Esq. addresses buying/selling real estate. @ 5650 S Woodlawn. Info (312) 409-7609.

The Vix "Bid Whist at Vix" begins 8pm, no cover. 2814 N Halsted. (773) 529-3999.

Friday, July 10

Fusion Billboards' Closing Nite EXXXtravaganza, w/ live performers 9:30p+, featuring Liz Torres, Harlan, Michelle Weeks, La Bouche, Tanna Garrett, Sabrina Johnston, DJ/Billboard Reporter Mark "Turtle" Hultmark. Tix Ticketmaster/@door. @ 3631 N Halsted, (773) 975-6622.

HotHouse Oscar Brown Jr. w/ Maggie Brown & acc Arron Graves. 9p, \$10. @ 31 E Balbo, (773) 235-2334.

MACT-Chicago (Men of All Colors Together) monthly meeting 7:30p Ann Sather's, Belmont. Info (312) 409-6916

Samaritan Housing Services "We're Gonna Rasie the Roof for St Luke's Place!" 1st Annual Benefit Dinner for facility renovation to provide HIV/AIDS, Housing & Supportive services for Chi's Southside, esp for low-income men & women (773) 928-2036.

Saturday, July 11

Affinity 2nd Sat Youth Group meets. Info (312) 409-7609.

Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays General meeting, Info (312) 409-4917.

Chicago Dramatists Sat Series staged rdg/discussion: Nambi Kelley's *He, She & My White Mama*—interracial marriage vs. the status quo, 2p, \$3 @ 1105 W Chicago Ave. Info (312) 633-0630.

Communities of Women Art Gallery "From My Center" July exhibition features 4 Chi-area Af-Am women artists: Simone Bouyer, Juarez Hawkins, Sykvia Westbrook & Donna Joy Wolfe. Opening reception 2-6p, free. Show thru Sept 12. @ CWAG in the Women's Place Resource Center, 30 E Adams, (773) 275-1319.

HotHouse 9a-5p Rhythm Evolution presents Facilitators Rhythmical Playshop Weekend w/ Arthur Hull (thru Sun!) AND Dibo Dibala w/ Matchtcha plays hot African guitar & more. 11p, \$18. @ 31 E Balbo, (773) 235-2334.

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children presents Alix Dobkin; 7:30pm, suggested donation. At

Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W Foster. Info (312) 409-0276.

TwinCities>Wisc>Chi AIDS Ride 3 The 2500 riders hit Chicago! Closing ceremonies 3/4p in Grant Park, corner Columbus & Balbo. Info/to volunteer for today (773) 880-8812.

Sunday, July 12

WACT (Womyn of All Colors/Cultures Together) Brunch. (773) 784-8922 or (773) 862-6948.

Friday, July 17

ADODI "Unchained Fire: Gifting the Universe w/ You" National Summer Retreat, at Camp Ronora in Watervliet, Mich, July 17-19. \$200 incl trans, meals, & workshops/events/rec facilities! Space ltd, so call now. Some scholarships avail. Donations/vols welcome, too. Info (312) 458-9584.

Last House on the Block Gay-Closed AA meetings 7-8p every Fri. @ Hyde Park Neighborhood Club, 5480 S Kenwood. Info Jackie (312) 366-4573.

Saturday, July 18

Affinity 40-Plus women's group meets 3rd Saturdays, 4-6pm. Info, location, topic (773) 667-7606.

Harriet Tubman Place co-hosts West Side HIV/AIDS & Health Awareness Outreach Ministry Training Conference for clergy, lay leaders & church members: 9a-2p, free (incl cont'l breakfast & lunch), @ 3rd Unitarian Church, 301 N Mayfield Ave. AND as usual Pathfinders offers tonz of cool ops for GLBT or questioning people: fun, support groups, anonymous HIV testing, counselling, good eats/reads/folks/ music (our or yours!), condoms FREE! (773) 626-1443. 5903 W Fulton, #1W.

Last House on the Block (Gay-Closed AA) sponsors a Gay-Great America Trip to Gurnee, Ill. amusement park, \$30 kids/\$35 adults, pre-reg req. Info (773) 373-0024 or (773) 471-9088. (Meetings 7-8p every Fri. @ Hyde Park Neighborhood Club, 5480 S Kenwood.) Info Jackie (312) 366-4573.

Tuesday, July 21

MACT-Chicago (Men of All Colors Together) NABWMT Annual Convention "Rainbow on the Horizon," hosted by BWMT-South Florida in Ft. Lauderdale. July 25, \$135 to "NABWMT Convention '98, c/o Rick Mitchell, Sec'y/Treasurer," PO Box 21426, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335. Conf info 1-800-N4BWMT; email sbfwmnt@aol.com. MACT-Chi info (312) 409-6916

Friday, July 24

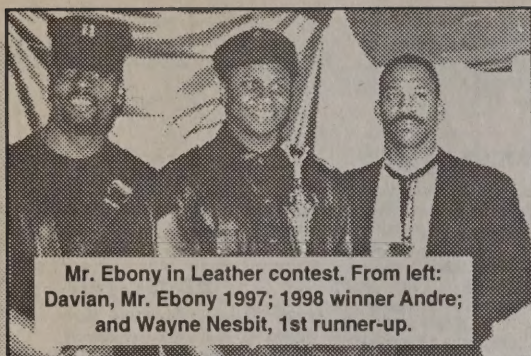
Rosemont Horizon Janet Jackson, w/ Usher. Call Ticketmaster.

Saturday, July 25

Comite Organizador de Chicago presents El Show de Krystall! El Comite's own dirt-dishing diva runs a talk show like no other! Special guests & juicy topx. Doors 7p, show 9p, \$4 cover benefits El Comite, local planners for LLEGO 6. @ Bristol's, 2986 Elston. (773) 918-5067.
Human Rights Campaign 9th Annual Dinner & Dance 1-800-494-8497.

Sunday, July 26

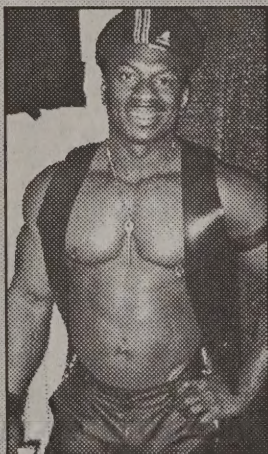
Cirque du Soleil benefit for the Night Ministry! French-Canadian theatrical circus will wow even the most jaded kids! 1p, \$50-100 (ltd seating). @ United Center Parking Lot K. Info (773) 935-3366 or -8300.



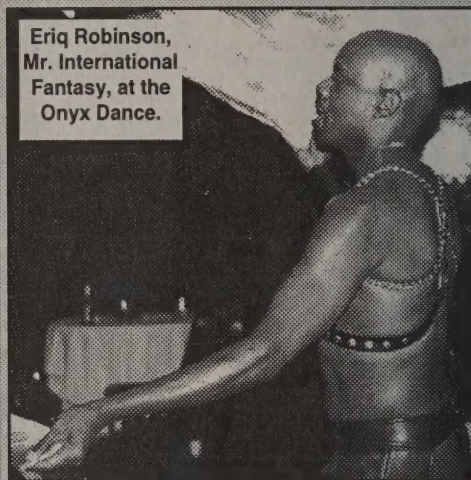
Mr. Ebony in Leather contest. From left: Davian, Mr. Ebony 1997; 1998 winner Andre; and Wayne Nesbit, 1st runner-up.



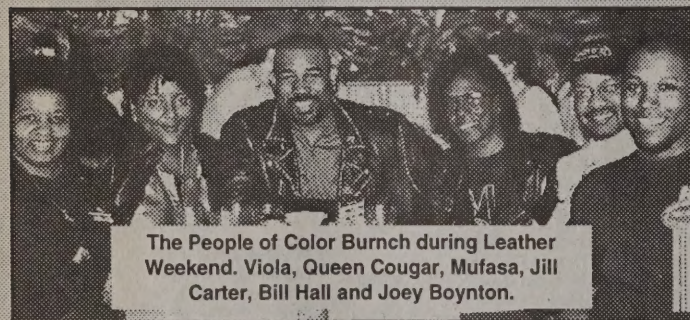
James Brown at IML. Photo by Rory Tanksley



Donnie Russo gets his boots shined.



Eriq Robinson, Mr. International Fantasy, at the Onyx Dance.



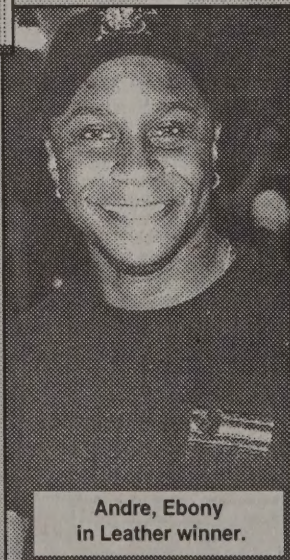
The People of Color Burnch during Leather Weekend. Viola, Queen Cougar, Mufasa, Jill Carter, Bill Hall and Joey Boynton.



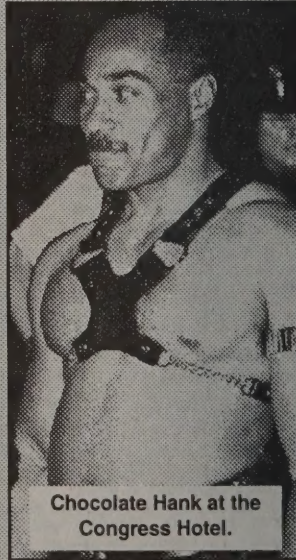
The Onyx Leather Dance: Roland, Buck, Da and Stacy

Armstrong Williams interview Lott on gays, but faces his own lawsuit for harassment

Senate majority leader Trent Lott got in trouble in June for comments saying homosexuality was to be treated like a disease—like alcoholism or kleptomania. But interestingly enough, Armstrong Williams, the conservative, Black talkshow host who got Lott to stick his foot in his mouth and cause an uproar, is being sued for sexual harassment by a former employee. The employee is Stephen Gregory, who alleges Williams harassed him in at least 50 incidents. THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE notes that in a suit filed a year ago, Gregory accuses Williams of repeatedly kissing him on the mouth, grabbing his buttocks and genitals, and climbing into bed with him on business trips. Gregory says he refused the advances, and he claims Williams retaliated by docking his pay and ultimately firing him, the CHRONICLE said. Gregory is asking for \$200,000 in damages, and the case is expected to go to a jury trial late this year, the CHRONICLE reported. Williams denies the allegations.



Andre, Ebony in Leather winner.



Chocolate Hank at the Congress Hotel.

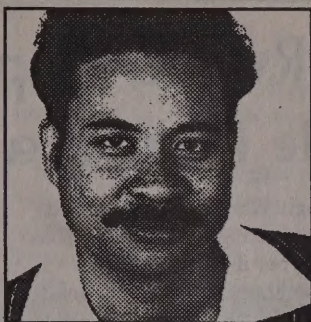
On Being Liberal-Minded

by Jean Pierre Campbell

For the late Eldridge Cleaver: When they utter your name, regardless of how they contextualize you in history, we will remember you and be eternally grateful. Rest in peace, brother.

As an idealistic youth, whenever prominent African Americans would take white liberals to task, I thought such attacks were misdirected. After all, white liberals weren't dangerous, were they? It took me a while to learn that just because someone's standing in your house doesn't make 'em family. I am reminded of this while watching 60 Minutes (June 16, 1997), during which Mike Wallace interviews Eldridge Cleaver, the former Minister of Information for the Black Panther Party.

I think it will be a splendid opportunity to hear what an "old school" radical has to say about today's violent youth or drug-infested communities. But when I learned Cleaver has become a bible-toting, "card-carrying" Republican, I prepare for a fascinating conversation about his journey from radical-in-exile to born-again Christian to hopeful Republican. However, Wallace and 60 Minutes have no interest in that. Instead, what they want, after all this time, is the public shaming of a black



radical who was never meant to escape federal bullets.

As the segment begins, I wonder, what does a revolutionary do when the revolution is over? Cleaver's post-Panther decades are summed up in a single statement; he has been in and out of jail, has become an ex-cocaine abuser, and now a lecturer.

Then old footage is shown from an interview which Wallace himself conducted in 1970 with the young, fiery Minister of Information. Speaking for the Party, Cleaver, notorious for his inflammatory invectives, essentially says: "We need to take armed revolution to the Capitol and cut the head off (President) Nixon, the leader of all Gestapo pigs responsible for Black oppression!" Absurdly, this pronouncement serves as the only focus of discussion with the 61-year-old Cleaver.

As the discussion begins, Wallace asks, "Did you really mean that?" When Cleaver responds affirmatively, Wallace appears quite stunned due to the "treasonous" disclosure. Cleaver explains his position with an ease that says, "Look, in war shit happens, okay?" as

Wallace makes a face; he grimaces. But when Cleaver admits that the Party's gunbrandishing approach to liberation "would never have worked," Wallace becomes invigorated as if something finally worthy of discussion has been hit upon.

Recognizing Wallace's sudden interest, Cleaver says, "I've recanted this already," denoting that he's long since disavowed the Party's strategy.

Wallace seizes the moment, "So you were wrong?"

"No, we weren't wrong!" Cleaver replies, looking rather incredulously at Wallace as I say to myself, "The revolution will not be televised...only the remains."

Eldridge Cleaver — this once young, radical Black liberator cum ex-con, cum ex-cocaine abuser — had come through the fire, though not unscathed but sound and vocal. Yet he wasn't invited to appear on 60 Minutes to testify against white tyranny, but to be humbled by it (as if being a Republican wasn't enough). He was brought before the nation to take it all back — the pain, the history, the national shame or lack of it.

As I sit I am angry. Wallace implies the young Cleaver was a lunatic for defying the government. Suddenly I think of Chicago in 1969, rife with rage, and 21-year-old Panther Fred Hampton and his comrades, sleeping in their beds in the cold Winter night ... and of the "official" gunfire, disrupting the slumber of revolutionaries who probably awoke wondering, who will save the children now? ... and of police the next day saying that they had to kill the young people in defense of themselves.

But forensic analysis would disclose that all bullets were fired inward upon the revolutionaries and none outward at police.

Yet Wallace, 27 years after the fact, dares to question Cleaver's ... fiery language?

Editor's note: Reports show police fired about 80 shots, the Panthers fired one.

MOORE from 10

feeling is that the partners are no longer equals. One partner increases (sometimes decreases) his self-image in the realm of finance, social importance, adventure, or spirituality.

Meanwhile, the other's self-images are relatively satisfied to remain much the same.

An example is Superman and Batman. Sometimes these two heroes work together as a team. They are two completely different individuals, and yet they are peers, equals.

Relationships are based on needs. We need different kinds of people to help us throughout our lives. When we are younger we may need an older person to help guide us, to support and provide a sense of security. As we get a little older we may want someone to play with, someone to compete with, someone whom you may share with on a more equal basis. As we mature we may want to give back, to help guide someone younger. Also, we may become more set in our ways and the need for great life adventures may not be there.

Whatever the theme, as long as the relationship provides for the need of the consenting individuals, so long as the relationship is not destructive to its participants or society in general, it is a good relationship. It is worthy of respect and honor.

Lawrence Moore is a Licensed and Certified Thai body work specialist. Lawrence is an alumnus of Chicago State University. Lawrence has studied Traditional Thai Medical Body Therapy under the foundry of the International Thai Therapist Association (ITTA), Anthony B. James, Ph.D. In addition, he has spent a year training in Vipassana (insight) meditation in Thailand and in Malaysia. Recently, he spent a year in Mexico promoting, teaching, and practicing Thai body therapy. Chicago State's full-time students may receive a 50% discount off of any regular body work session. Lawrence may be reached at (773) 779-1986.

LABELLE from 4

born in Orlando in 1956. Patti, Sarah, Nona and Cindy started singing together as the Ordettes as teenagers. She was 17 when they became Patti LaBelle and the Bluebelles and had their first hit, "I Sold My Heart to the Junkman." They didn't have as many hits as some groups but were popular in live performances. Patti had an affair with Otis Williams and when that ended, rejected three marriage proposals from Armstead Edwards. Realizing she had

made a mistake she proposed to him, and they've been married 30 years, raising five children.

The act got stale and British TV producer Vicki Wickham was brought in to revamp it. The surviving trio became Labelle and had their No. 1 hit, "Lady Marmalade," in 1975. When they finally split up in 1976 Patti thought her career was over. Her pop breakthrough came with "New Attitude," followed by "On My Own." She finally won a Grammy for the *Burnin'* album and continues to be a top draw.

Making Pride a Year-Round Experience ...

BLACKlines Profiles People Making a Difference

Dr. Kiki

(Nikki) Hurt, 28

Doctor of Internal Medicine

On Friday, June 12, 1998, Kiki (Nikki) Hurt completed a journey that started many years ago. She graduated from Rush Medical College.

"Getting to Medical School wasn't as hard as people think it is," she said. "The lack of money to live on was the most challenging part. When I was in undergraduate school at the University of Illinois, most of

nunciation of her name she said, "my parents didn't go to school [that's how they thought it was spelled]. To honor them, I still spell it this way." (sorry, no pic available.)

—Jano

Elanor

Williams, 62

Teacher

Elanor is a Georgia Peach but all of her early memories are from Florida. "When I was 18 and living in Florida, I took up with a group of gospel

night comes, you might find her jacking her body and shaking her dreads at the Generator. She enjoys friendships with people of all ages: "Because of my Buddhist practice, I am able to draw people into my life. It is important to reach out to other people and have a smile."

—Jano

Gaylon Roberson

30 Something

Job Placement Specialist

Gaylon is the mother of two

says Gaylon. "Solutions to social problems begin with one person."

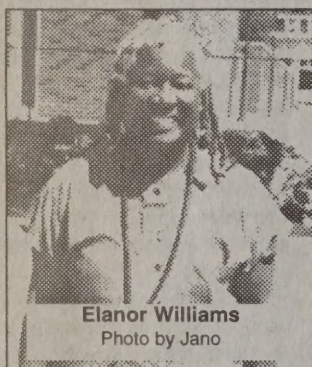
When asked what she is most proud of she says, "I am most proud of my inner strength. It enables me to live my life the way I please."

What does she do to get away from it all? "I get my dance on, at least once a month or I just feel incomplete as a person."

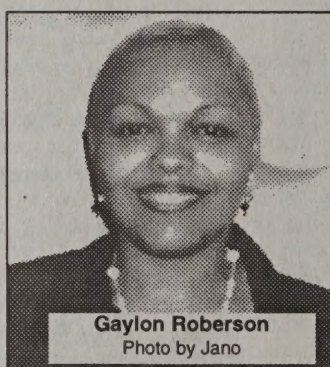
—Jano

Linda Powell

Barber/Owner of



Elanor Williams
Photo by Jano



Gaylon Roberson
Photo by Jano



Linda Powell
Photo by Jano

the time I was years old. A friend and I would make jokes out of where we were going to sleep at night." Her great-grandmother who raised her and was her only support, had died by then. "I am most proud of my mentality; very humble, loving and giving. That's how I approach my patients. I like who I am on the inside, I like who my great-grandmother raised."

Kiki (Nikki) works 110 hours a week, which means there is no one special in her life. "When you become a doctor you have to choose, sometimes between having a relationship with other people and making a commitment to humanity."

When asked about the spelling, not matching the pro-

singers, becoming their chauffeur. I had never been out of the state before. They were based in Chicago and I ended up staying here." Two years ago she received her Masters Degree from Northern Illinois University. She felt that she needed it in order to be an adult educator. She is most proud of being open and happy with herself. "You must be happy within yourself and be able to love yourself."

Elanor enjoys traveling and has been to Paris, Germany, Japan and Ghana. She collects cars and is currently restoring a 1986 Masserati and Peugeot. She likes to shop, work in her yard and has a love of animals. However, when Wednesday and Friday

children, ages 5 and 9. About four years ago, she started a group called United Sisters. "We started with five women but currently have six. The purpose of starting the group was to give back to our community and be a part of the solution; focusing on communities of color and especially women and children." They have handed out bus tokens at 63rd and the Dan Ryan, cleaned streets on West 76th, made bag lunches for the homeless and recently cooked dinner for a women and children's shelter.

United Sisters most likely won't be featured on the news or in the papers but they are not looking for recognition. "This makes me feel good,"

Mitchell's Barber Shop
For the past five years, Linda Powell has been the proud owner of Mitchell's Barbershop at 364 E. 63rd Street. It is steps away from King Drive in an area that holds a lot of history and memories for Black Chicagoans. "I wanted to keep the name of the shop (after I bought it) because everyone knew it as a family shop. It represented stability and tradition; I wanted to continue to follow that." You can find there five other barbers, a manicurist, and stimulating conversation.

The shop sits in the shadow of reality. Along with the usual clientele, she sometimes gets some very colorful charac-

ters. Everyone receives the same amount of respect and the same type of service. "I am a part of the 'hood. I am not separated from anyone. I want to be one with everything," Linda says.

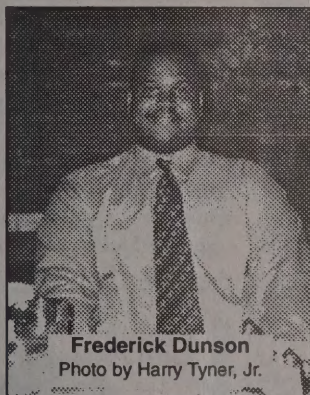
Linda does not feel like a role model but she is, for many

lasting friendship which has included the opening of the Powerplant (1983-1987), where he would take care of book-keeping.

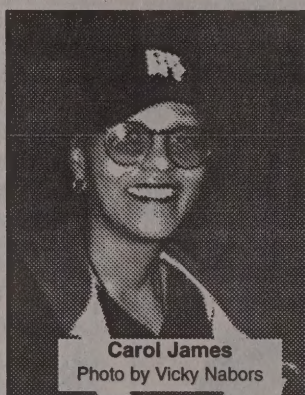
Soon after Frankie decided to move back to New York, where his career skyrocketed, Frederick went to work for the

myself. I was OK, in good company with me. I am strictly an artist, so my idea of fun is to grab my sketchbook, coffee, and a Billie Holiday CD. I also enjoy going to the lake and I love people watching. Currently, I am getting ready for an art showing around my

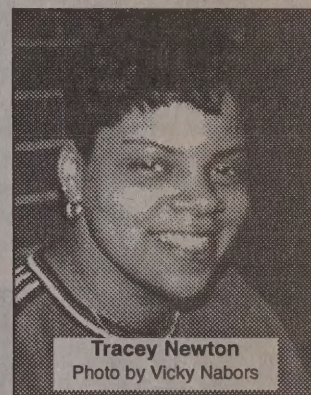
get together with everyone else. I try to make the club a place where women can meet, kind of like an icebreaker especially for single people. My best Pride memory is from last year. I met a group of people from out of town and we combined our separate barbeques into



Frederick Dunson
Photo by Harry Tyner, Jr.



Carol James
Photo by Vicky Nabors



Tracey Newton
Photo by Vicky Nabors

children who run past her shop to buy candy next door. She is shy in thinking about it. "I feel that the life I am leading is the right thing ... if anyone followed in my footsteps, they would be doing right."

—Jano

Frederick Dunson

30 something forever
Asst. Chief Deputy
Clerk/Promoter

Born and raised on the West Side of Chicago, Frederick attended St. Ignacious, an all-boys school. As he puts it, "There were girls there too, they just didn't know it." From there he went to attend Columbia College and received a certificate in restaurant management from the Cooking and Hospitality Institute of Chicago.

Being in the club music scene, he began frequenting clubs of old such as the Warehouse (1978-1981), where he handled food service and became office manager, there in turn meeting a young DJ who would in turn evolve the house sound of Chicago, legendary remixer, Frankie Knuckles. From that meeting they have established a long-

clerk of the circuit court. Aside from his day job, he along with his partner, Dennis Evans, formed D/E Entertainment, which began the first of many parties that Frankie would return to bless "the children" with his presence.

"My greatest pride moment is when I see people succeed at what they do. Pride to me is truly, fully accepting who and what you are. Respecting and loving of yourself."

— Harry Tyner, Jr.

Carol James, 48

Artist

"Gay Pride month to me is a time to shine as a gay person, a time to wear buttons and a time to hang up your rainbow flags. My best memory of Gay Pride month was in 1990 when I carried my teddy bear (Juju) in the parade. Juju was a special little bear; it was kind of like a security thing. That was the first gay parade that I had fully come out for good. I had just graduated from a coming-out group at Horizons. What I am most proud of is my own personal victory of challenges met and finally embracing

birthday in August." Carol James is a very lively and spiritual sister with a profound gift for life at it's fullest.

—Vicky Nabors

Tracy Newton

Club Intimus owner
Carpenter

"When Gay Pride month comes up it sparks people to unify. It's all about unity. Most people can't wait to get together to celebrate and to meet people from out of town. During the weekend of the parade there seems to be less animosity as they prepare to

one big gathering. What I am most proud of is having the opportunity to mentor young women who find themselves in conflicting situations while at the club. Problems can be resolved without fighting. I am very pleased when they return to the club to hug, and thank me for caring enough to talk to them. They look to me as a mother figure, often calling me mama. As far as fun away from work, I pretty much am a homebody, but I do enjoy cooking, making food look pretty and appetizing.

—Vicky Nabors

Do you know someone who has an interesting job, family life, or story to tell? Nominate them for a feature in **BLACKLINES**. Send their name and phone number to the address below (as well as your name and number); **BLACKlines People**, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657; FAX (773) 871-7609; e-mail outlines@suba.com

Juarez Hawkins, 35

Artist

"For me, Gay Pride month means getting together with my gay and lesbian friends. However, as far as Pride month, I am a proud person all year long. My fondest memory of Pride month is when Paris Dance was throwing those parties in their parking lot. On the day of the parade, I would leave the Rocks as soon as the police arrived and head over to Paris. It's interesting how the



Juarez Hawkins
Photo by Vicky Nabors

cops always seemed to come over to the rocks in riot gear, and not Lincoln Park. Anyway, the music would be booming throughout the parking lot. The bodies of Black, Asian, Latino, and white girls would be pumping to the music ignoring all of the homophobes that passed in their cars. My most prideful thoughts are of how far I have come both personally and creatively. Being Black as well as being gay is important to me, especially in my art. In my spare time I enjoy lifting weights, playing tennis, attending art exhibits, and listening to good music. I love to cook and can throw a mean brunch. (I am single)."

—Vicky Nabors

Lora Branch, 35

Public Health Administrator

"When I think of pride month, I think of how Black people collectively celebrate who we are and we do that in our own traditional ways. The gathering on the Rocks for example is like a big family celebration after the parade. We have a sense of pride that lasts year round; it's not overt as with some people, but more integrated into the fabric of our communities. My best memory of Pride month was last year when my girlfriend



Lora Branch
Photo by Vicky Nabors

decided to join the parade as it was in progress, she was very animated. I didn't know how fond she was of drag queens and that was really funny. I am proud of our community and the tremendous strides that we have made as individuals. Working with CBLG and Horizons has given me a new perspective on what it means to be gay. The more proud you are of yourself, the more proud people can be of you. Pride is important. As for fun, I am a newlywed (with Debra Brown), so I have become a homebody within the last six months. I am a DJ, and I worked for the Lesbian Cancer Project and the National Women's Dance."

—Vicky Nabors

Marsha Jackson

Bank Courier,
Officer-at-large with
It's Time Illinois

1. What is your occupation? (Including your position with ITI) "Overworked bank courier by day. Officer at large with the Illinois transgender rights group ITI."

2. What is your birthday? "June 19, 1964."

3. What does Pride mean to you? "Standing up and being myself. Being out and open if necessary."

4. What would your perfect



Marsha Jackson
Photo by Robert Castillo

Pride Day exist of? "Watching the parade ... having walked it at least four times."

5. Give an example of pride in your life. "Little things, I guess, I'm inarticulate but am willing to be out there when the need arises ... Got my bumper stickers on the car I use for work, etc."

6. Do you have a partner and what is his/her name? "Potentially, we've only gotten to a second date so far. Not telling yet."

7. What is your sexuality? "No telling, currently lesbian, potentially bi, depends on the attraction to another person."

8. What are your hobbies? "Computers, yo-yos, darts, working around the house."

9. Describe what you can do to make this a better world. "Educate others, try to open

their minds. I sound like I'm in a pageant."

10. What do you like to do for fun? "Play darts."

—Lynnell S. Long

Debra Brown, 34

Architect

"I never knew pride month existed until I moved here from Mississippi. We didn't have anything like this in my home state. I love the weekend of the parade because it means that we can be free for a minute. We can be ourselves outside without too many strange looks, being free to



Debra Brown
Photo by Vicky Nabors

express yourself. My best memory is of the Rocks one year after the parade, there were these guys playing piggy (softball), the majority of them were very feminine and they wouldn't, or couldn't catch the ball. It was really funny because they were too cute to play ball. I am most proud of the fact that gay people are becoming more exposed and are not ashamed of who they are. It is a slow process, but it is happening. The fact that Lora and I can have a ceremony in public and not get shot at is really exciting. I enjoy playing basketball but most of the time I just watch and I love to read. I am glad that our ceremony was pushed up to June because it has more meaning celebrating it during Gay Pride Month."

—Vicky Nabors

Boris Powell

Health Educator

"Youthful," was Boris Powell's response to the age inquiry. Born in Germany, the young Boris spoke fluent

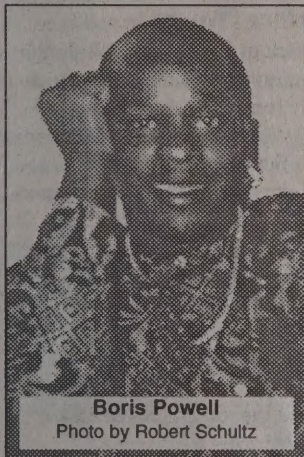
means having the "unique privilege of being out professionally, politically, and religiously." Boris realizes that "a great deal of African American brothers can't conceive of being out in all those areas."

"I'm living a freedom that a

ent's rural Miss. establishment. When he's not behind the bar he's working out in the gym or walking his female rottweiler.

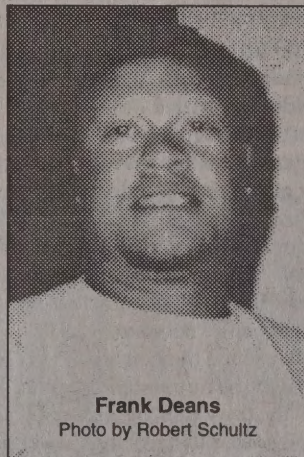
Among the things that he is proud of as an individual are being Black, and recently quit-

most memorable Pride was when he told his parents that he was gay. "I felt really good. I didn't want to be dishonest—I wanted them to know me in my entirety," related Larry. Larry is most proud of the fact that with Club Escape,



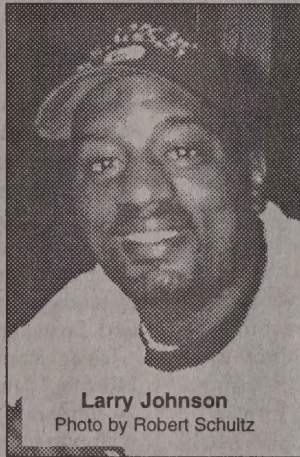
Boris Powell

Photo by Robert Schultz



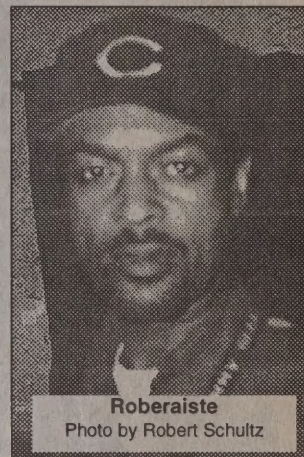
Frank Deans

Photo by Robert Schultz



Larry Johnson

Photo by Robert Schultz



Roberaiste

Photo by Robert Schultz

German until his family moved. Boris has lived in Chicago for 25 years. For the last decade he has devoted himself professionally to HIV and safe-sex issues. Currently, Boris is the Assistant Project Coordinator for the Awareness Intervention for Men (AIM) at Howard Brown Health Center. In the evening, after preparing a low-fat gourmet meal, Boris meditates introspectively or reads. Currently, his reading list includes Toni Morrison's *Paradise* and Ann Rice's *Menmock the Devil*.

Boris came out to his family at age 15. For Powell Pride

lot of people in my community can't experience," reflects Boris. "When you don't have to hide intellectually and creativity you can soar because there's no energy being put into hiding."

—Robert Schultz

Frank Deans

Club Escape co-owner

Frank Deans, co-owner and bartender of the popular South Side Club Escape was born near Tupelo, Miss. 37 years ago. Frank was in the "bar business" as a youth when he worked cleaning his grandpar-

ting smoking. Frank is also extremely proud of the success of Club Escape.

In 1981 Frank attended his first Pride parade and indulged in all the related activities of the day. "It was the first one I attended and I really enjoyed it," he recalled.

—Robert Schultz

Larry Johnson

Social Worker,

Club Escape co-owner

Larry Johnson is a social worker and one of the co-owners of Club Escape. For him Pride means "being comfortable with one's self." Larry's

"We've given the community a quality business establishment." When asked about his after-work activities Johnson quipped, "there's no such thing, if there is someone let me know."

—Robert Schultz

Roberaiste

Entrepreneur,

Club Escape Staff member

A familiar club personality and Club Escape staff member is Roberaiste. Wryly claiming to be "forty-plus" in age, Roberaiste continues to be a familiar figure on Chicago's Black gay scene. Roberaiste has only used one name in his adult life. Among the establishments where the entrepreneur has worked are the 158, the Waterworks, Trade and Flavor, Ritz Manhattan, and Jeffery Pub. Roberaiste's best Pride memory is the year that Trade and Flavor had a float in the Pride Parade and he was on the microphone the entire time. "I never had so much fun. I really enjoyed myself," he recalled.

—Robert Schultz

Stay Awhile

I wish you
wouldn't leave me here
full of
fires
that can only be
extinguished
by the wetness of your mouth...

Inspiration

I want your breath
inside of me
seeping through the
crevices of my love cave
filling me with life

I want our chests
undressed and pressed
so tightly
our heartbeats create a rhythm
and our bodies dance
between sheets

I want my toes tangled
in your hair
your hands wrapped around my ankles
Yes, Baby, keep it right there!!!

I want love
I want you
I want inspiration...
—Simone A. Cunningham

flow ~ notes from the BLACKLINES Music Department

Underground Techniques

DJ Harry Tyner, Jr.

The summer of '98 is sizzling up and in full swing with hot productions pouring out of the woodworks. Already burning up the club floors are Mousse T. vs. Hot-n-Juicy "Horny" out on Peppermint Jam and the DJ Pierre produced "The Horn Sog" on Strictly Rhythm.

For the garage heads, Bobby D'Ambrosio featuring MichelleWeeks presents us with "The Day," out on Definity. The inner city dub version is guaranteed to move you, very reminiscent of her previous work, "Moment of My Life." Coalition records releases "Heaven," by Kinane, with remixes by my favorite DJ Danny Tenaglia. The vocal dub is very dark and builds into an uplifting groove. Ce Ce Peniston also makes a comeback return to the club scene with the Steve "Silk" Hurley produced track, "Nobody Else."

As I said before, my favorite DJ being Danny Tenaglia, "tourism" his latest release out on Twisted America suffices a multitude of talent that should not be missed. His opening track, "Baby, Do You Feel Me?" featuring old skool songstress Teena Marie, sets the tone of this excursion of different moods and soulful sounds. Just listen to the deep eerie beats of club smash "Elements." As Danny explains how the building of each technique to a track can move and elevate oneself to a higher state of consciousness.

Other highlights include "Music Is The Answer" featuring Celeda, "Turn Me On" featuring the sultry Latin vocals of Liz Torres, and the Front 242 remake of "Headhunter" by Jo-Jo Americo.

Although not like the original, this remake attempts to come close.

DJ Harry T Underground Top 5

1. Heaven — Kinane (Tenaglia rmxs)
2. Tonight ... I'm Dreaming — Fifty Fifty
3. Bangin' — Kenlou 6
4. expansions — Scott Grooves
feat. Roy Ayers
5. Pienso En Ti (I Think Of You) —
Masters At Work
feat. Louis Salinas

Up on It

music reviews by J.

Esthero — *Breath From Another* (Work)

One problem with trip hop, much like rap, is its lack of innovation. While the characteristic lazy beat and dark arrangements have quickly generated an audience, trip hop bands have varied little from its basic formula.

Breath From Another, the debut from Toronto group Esthero, is one of the first to diversify this genre. The title track begins with a familiar trip/hip hop beat before effortlessly giving way to a drum 'n' bass chorus and adding new dimension to an older idea. The rest of "Breath" reveals a unique brand of trip hop-based music, without limits. Surprisingly assured vocals by 19-year-old Esthero shimmer over clunky rhythms and swirling orchestral embellishments, arranged by studio-guru Doc. The result is a fractured combination of Everything But The Girl, Swing Out Sister and Pizzacato Five.

Instant standouts include the bouncy "That Girl," "Country Livin' (The World I Know)," "Anywayz," featuring delicate piano work, the samba-like "Half A World Away" and the beautiful "Superheroes" which blends an r&b bassline with pop melodies, uncannily recalling Sade. Very delicious.

Lenny Kravitz — *5* (Virgin)

There was quite a bit of promotion surrounding the release of Kravitz's fifth effort. Probably because 5, easily the weakest effort by Kravitz, doesn't stand well on its own. Crippled by droll arrangements and trite lyrics (something that has always marred the best of Kravitz's work), very few songs require revisiting. And while Kravitz has always gotten flack from critics regarding his liberal use of influences (Mayfield, Wonder, Hendrix, Sly, etc.), 5 is his most thinly veiled stab at homage. Beginning with the uninspired "Live," Lenny fails to stabilize himself on 5. "I Belong To You" has a good melody but is sabotaged by trite lyrics ("I belong to you/And you/You belong to you too"). Following is the horribly misguided, electronic "Black Velveten," the album's aborted working title.

Ironically, 5 doesn't begin to take shape until track five, "If You Can't Say No." However, that shape is a rehash of previous Kravitz work.

Alas, the only shining moments are "Thinking Of You," a bright, pop love song and "Little Girl's Eyes" which pretty much rips off the Isley Brothers. A huge disappointment.

Swimmer — *Welcome To My Whirl* (Elbo Records)

Although you can regularly catch a live show by Chicago bands Liquid Soul, Poi Dog Pondering and Swimmer, each band has recently released full-length CD's. But while Liquid Soul and Poi Dog Pondering are more popular, I've always felt that Swimmer's style (characterized by bandleader Nicholas Barron's frenetic, blues-infused vocal delivery) consistently outperforms the mostly instrumental jazz/funk/r&b of other local bands. Swimmer's "style" consists of jazz/r&b-based horns and chords topped off by jungle related, esoteric lyrics ("Drill through the wall like a Woodpecker Guru/Squelch the cry of the infantile boo hoo") over humanistic themes. In other words, substance is buried under humorous wordplay. Instant favorites are the title track, the touching "Simple," "No Time," "Banana" and "Monkey Nerve," featuring excellent vocals by Everett. The CD loses some marks, however, for its subdued production (especially compared to a live performance) and the departure of Peven Everett who co-wrote half of the songs and contributed musically and vocally to the band's sound. (His band, Séance Divine, is a hard one to catch perform, but unbelievably accomplished). Due to limited distribution, try Tower Records on Clark and Belden, call 1-888-563-7474, or check them out live at The Elbo Room on Thursday nights. Joyful nonsense.

flow ~ notes from the BLACKLINES Music Department

On the town ...

by Marvin Patterson

Topping the news in entertainment: Chicago has been waiting impatiently for the arrival of the "Velvet Rope Tour." Janet and Usher will kick the tour off this month in Washington, D.C. presented by BET. Janet will donate some funds to "America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth,"

which happens to be Usher, but that's not true. Brandy and Monica did do a song together titled the "Boy Is Mine." Brandy says she's so busy trying to promote this album, and filming the movie *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, and preparing for the next season of her hit show *Moesha*. Brandy went on to say that this new album is different, it's more about growing up. "It's basically like a whole new rela-

tionship throughout my new album. It's the kind of relationship that can make you happy. It's the kind of relationship that can make you sad. It's the kind

TLC. Photo by Marvin Patterson



Brandy. Photo by Marvin Patterson



Monica with BLACKLINES' Marvin Patterson. Photo by Jennifer Williams

which is a mentoring program for children. General Colin Powell is the chairman of this project. And as for Usher, who's preparing for the tour, he says that he's excited about touring with Janet, and hopes that he will one day headline a tour. And Usher will be seen a lot more. That's Right! He will shoot a commercial with Dark & Lovely. And he has just signed an endorsement with Calvin Klein.

Rumors have been going around that singing divas Brandy, and Monica have been fighting over a young man,

of relationship that can make you suffer, because it's gone." And as for Monica aka "Miss Thang" she says that Usher and she are friends and that there wasn't any player-hating with her and Brandy. Monica also added that she too is preparing to drop her new album this month, and that she is dating C-Murder, who happens to be Master P's brother.

Supermodel Roshumba strutted her stuff at Planet Hollywood, she MC'd the new "ELITE Teenage Model Search." Faith Evans, widow the Notorious B.I.G., is expecting, so her album which would have been released will be pushed back to August so that Faith can lose weight from her



Janet Jackson.
Photo by Marvin Patterson

pregnancy. Speaking of artists who are set to drop their album, the ladies of TLC will soon release their much-anticipated album. Dallas Austin, Babyface and Left Eye are set to do some producing on their album. Well guys that's a rap up for me till next time. See ya.



Usher (left) with Marvin. Photo by Raymond Boyd

THY CUP RUNNETH OVER 'Pride'

by **Lynnell
Stephanie Long**

*(I dedicate this article to every-
one that ever had to struggled to
find pride within themselves. I hope
you found it just like I did.)*



Rodney Dangerfield's famous line used to be, "It's not easy being me."

Well it's definitely not easy being me, either. It's not easy being an Intersex/Trans Lesbian who writes, performs and tries to work on other projects in between rehearsals with A Real Read.

It's not easy being me, but it can be fun.

I say it can be fun as I write this article, but catch me when I'm PMSing and ask me then. Recently I performed at the June It's Time, Illinois! fundraiser. It was my first time performing for a crowd in which the majority were Transgendered people. I was afraid it would be like preaching to the choir but it wasn't.

For so long I have performed with the intentions of educating people about the Trans/Intersex community. I have met a lot of people who read my articles and have seen me perform who tell me I'm doing a great job.

Over the past 1-1/2 years writing for BLACKLINES and over a year with A Real Read, I have met a lot of well-known people. I had the pleasure of interviewing people such as Leon E. Pettiway (author of *Honey, honey, Miss Thang*), Flame Monroe, Sasha Valentino, C.C. Carter, Loren Cameron (photographer and author of *Body Alchemy*) and many others. I have performed at places like The Black Ensemble Theatre, Bailiwick Arts Center (returning this July 1, 2, 3 & 5), Randolph Street Gallery, The Park West and for a lot of fabulous organizations.

I was very proud to be performing at ITI's fundraiser. It was different because it wasn't

about educating, it was about sharing my strength, courage and hope. The strength to keep going after I felt like giving up. The courage to out myself with my writing and performing and the hope that one day this will be a better world for us all to live in. The hope that one day, because someone is Trans or Intersex, it wouldn't matter. For we are still human.

Pride for me is being the only African-American Trans/Intersex Lesbian in Chicago who writes and performs and has the courage to keep going. It's realizing that my story needs to be told and who's better to tell it than me. It's realizing that I am me. Loud mouth, bodacious, sensitive, loving, honest and very sexual.

It's hearing my lover and friends say "I love you, keep up the good work," while others try to condemn me to hell. It's bringing to the stage original works of poetry, prose and plays. It's giving a voice to an often overlooked community.

Pride for me is being a part of the family of "A Real Read," Chicago's Premiere African-American LesBiGayTRANS Performance Ensemble. It's going to rehearsals every Tuesday and Thursday (sometimes four days a week, like now) and looking forward to seeing my brothers and sisters. It's being part of a family at BLACK & NIGHTLINES. It's accepting that some may never accept me, but still respect and publish my writing.

Pride is looking forward to my upcoming sex reassignment surgery. It's knowing that I can change what I do not like about me or life. It's being sober and drug free for over 5 years.

I am very proud of who I am. I am proud to be a writer, a performing artist. I am proud to be a lesbian.

I am proud that you are reading this column. Enjoy life and Happy Pride Month!

Lynnell is the winner of the 1998 Georgia Black Award. Her e-mail address is INTERSEXx@aol.com

COMING OUT, AGAIN AND AGAIN

by **Charles Clifton**

The last six months have been one of the most difficult periods of my life. In that time I have lost both of my grandparents, nearly lost my mother to a heart ailment, and my partner and I realized that our visions for the immediate future are not the same.

Needless to say, my life has drastically been restructured and continues to be reconfigured. The time that I have spent away from graduate school at the University of Chicago and BLACKLINES has given me the opportunity to reflect upon how I identify myself as a Black gay man and what my commitments are to all of the communities to which I belong.

I have always been aware that when one makes choices there are sacrifices involved. Over the course of the last few months, however, I have been reminded that some of those choices require sacrifices that one is not always conscious of.

As we race along through this thing called life, we sometimes unconsciously deny where we've come from, forget where we've been and in the course of events lose sight of where we originally wanted to go.

When my paternal grandfather took ill at Thanksgiving he immediately requested that I come home. My father had died 25 years ago, and with the encouragement of my grandparents, I've spent a good portion of almost 20 years chasing my own dreams. But in choosing my path in life I have

distanced myself from the majority of the paternal side of my family. I spent the last night alone with grandfather in his hospital room. I held his hand as his breathing first grew heavy, then faint and until it finally stopped.

In making the arrangements for his funeral and reacquainting myself with family I had not seen in some instances since my father's funeral, I found myself coming out all over again. I'm still not sure if it was the grief or anger or a combination of the two, but if anyone asked, "Charles, do you have a girlfriend or wife?" I looked them straight in the eyes and responded, "No, I'm gay."

I forget how many times I said that, but I do remember thinking that I'm too damn old to respond any other way. After I had settled my grandfather's estate I came back to Chicago. At Easter, my grandmother took ill, spent a week in the same hospital and died. No one bothered to call me until after

**I've also re-learned
that "coming out" is
never over and can
still be hurtful.**

she had passed away. They couldn't find my phone number, or so they said.

I'm still trying to process the grief, shock and unnecessary hurt that enveloped my grandmother's death. I know that my grandparents loved me for the Black, Gay, Man that I've become. I know that the dreams that I still dream are dreams that they shared.

But I've also re-learned that "coming out" is never over and can still be hurtful.

I say all of this to remind us that Gay and Lesbian Pride month is not only a moment for our community to celebrate our "coming out," but also a chance for us as individuals to reflect upon where we have come from, evaluate where we are at, but most importantly make note of where you want to go.

Solid! **As the Rocks**

98

Belmont Rocks Party

June 28, 1998

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List in formation

Equality in Separatism

by d. i. sanders

I've been reading a lot of columns in the gay press by gay activists who feel the gay civil-rights movement should break from the civil-rights movement for minorities. They feel since polls show more Americans are willing to side on gay issues than civil-rights issues, the civil-rights movement is just dead weight dragging gay rights down. Well, I agree—not for their reasons but for my own. I believe the civil-rights movement was brought to a screeching halt because we took on so many other issues, such as the gay-rights issue. The problem is that the issues that affect white, gay Americans are not the pressing issues that affect us as Black, gay folks.

We have to worry about housing, job security, economic issues, racism, just to name a few and none of these issues are due to our sexuality, only to the one thing we cannot deny, even if we want to. Our skin color is a daily occurrence. So is our sexuality, but for most of us, we are not identified as homosexuals walking down the street. But we are always Black.



Sure, some of white, gay America's victories help us (and some of their losses hurt us in the end), but I believe that race issues are more important.

Whether we like to admit it or not, white, gay people are more likely to be racist than white people in general. Their sexuality makes them more apt to follow a Black person around a store. Take the management of certain businesses on Halsted, where this happens to me and a few of my friends, recently. We reported it and nothing was done, because a week later it happened again. Or just ask a bar on the strip, where a friend and I were carded by the doorman, while groups of white boys walked in behind us, uncared. We were told they were all regulars. Yeah, right. And the doorman recognized all 30 of them with just a quick glance. So we went to the management and told

them we visit that bar all the time and this behavior was blatantly wrong. We were told "Well I don't recognize you and neither do any of my bartenders." I forgot we all look alike.

The white, gay community seems to forget that they owe a lot to minorities. If it wasn't for Black and Latino drag queens there may have never been a modern gay-rights movement. Minorities were the group of people who demonstrated that we weren't taking it anymore. Consequently, if there was no African-American civil-rights movement there may have never been a gay movement.

If you look at the movies, you would think Blacks weren't there at all. The Black community is represented as more homophobic, but, time and time again, the Black Caucus in Congress has been supportive of gay rights. I guess our leaders' voting record on gay issues is just a congressional record misprint. Most of us remain in our communities, although we may not wear our sexuality on our sleeves. Are we the ones who run to the urban cities, fleeing our neighborhoods and our families to make gay ghettos? No not us, no way, no how.

As Black, gay people we

don't have to create a culture, we have one; one that is rich and full of energy. Our connection is not based on our sexuality, it is based on our heritage. The bond that is shared between Black men or Black women is so profound that our connection is unbreakable. Not to say it doesn't have it's problems, but it remains intact. We don't have to struggle to create a false sense of culture. We have an identity that does not limit our bond to sexuality.

This is not divisive, it is the truth. Sure there are White, gay folks who are our allies but let me say (because no one else will), the White gay community is not the friend of the Black gay community. We are not allies. They will sell us out in the end and if something that affects us doesn't directly affect them, they will be our strongest foes. What people who view this issue are missing is that white gays still benefit from white privilege. As unpleasant as this may sound, we have to point these things out and not live in this fake utopia that will only hurt us in the end. The time has come to fight our own battles and quit fighting theirs.

We need to distance ourselves from their community at once. I know this will take some time but the journey should begin now. The first step would be to have a separate Black, gay pride celebration. Until we can celebrate our pride in our own community, nothing else will matter. We must have our own day, our own ceremony, our own community and yes, our own image. We have tried so hard to fit into that community. Didn't we learn anything from our ancestors?

Sometimes the best way of fitting in is to not try.

Offended, angry, or do you find this idea laughable? I hope you are a little of all three, because if you are, then at least you're listening. And if you aren't, then maybe when they put you in chains or hang you from a tree, you'll understand what I was trying to say.

INTERPRIDE GLOBAL CALENDAR 1998

The International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators, Inc. (IAL/GPC) has a new pride schedule with hundreds of worldwide events.

The following dates have been released by local Pride organizations. Information, additions and updates may be submitted directly to the IAL/GPC for publication via their web site at <www.interpride.org/infoform.htm>.

Vendors and entertainers may now also list with the IAL/GPC at their web site at <www.interpride.org/infoform.htm>.

Dates include:

Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA Sept. 26

Atlanta, GA June 26-28

Charlotte, NC, Oct. 7-11

Cleveland, OH / Black Gay Pride Aug. 14-15

Detroit, MI Black Gay Pride July 24-26

Jacksonville, FL June 13

Kansas City, MO June 6

Knoxville, TN June 7-14

Los Angeles/West Hollywood, CA June 27-28

New York City/Manhattan, NY June 21 - 28

GAY CENTER OPENS IN PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

Pretoria, South Africa, has a new Gay and Lesbian Resource Centre.

Available services include access to doctors, lawyers and psychologists, a coffee shop, an info line, a library, safer-sex workshops, and women's meetings.

The center seeks donations of time, money, chairs, office supplies and equipment, plants, cleaning supplies, old curtains and carpets and other materials.

The facility is located at 133 Verdoorn Street, Sunnyside, near the Walker Street train station.

For more information, phone 011- 27-12-344-6500.

What's The "411"

with Preston L. Shumaker
Smart Advice
with an attitude!



UNFORGETTABLE, THAT'S WHAT DADS ARE

What's up people? Yes, June is bustin' out all over! As I'm sure many are well aware, Father's Day has just been celebrated. Although the holiday is just as equal as Mother's Day, Mom's still reigns supreme and outshines his day. As a result, I feel our Dads receive a raw deal. Poor gents usually end up with unwanted gifts or are ignored altogether! SO, I want to take this opportunity to pay homage to our Pops with one exception—those deadbeats who make a baby and leave their kids (a.k.a. hit it and quit it!). I'm talking about the true men who actually take responsibility seriously by rearing their children! There are many real dads out in the community. This *What's the 411?* column is for you!

Many of us forget about Dad, myself included. My childhood memories are running rampant! It doesn't take long for me to conjure up a thought! When I think of my father, Billy Joe Shumaker, I think NAT KING COLE! Dad loves Nat. At any given time at home, I can still hear the

silky smooth baritone voice booming from the living room: "Unforgettable, that's what you are, Unforgettable, though near or far ..." Dad is a traditional, simple Mississippian, who has only a sixth-grade education. A committed steel worker for more than 30 years, he toils mercifully to provide for his family. Dad's generosity is also amazing. Everyone in the neighborhood loves him because he is so gentle and helps out anyone who needs help, especially children. All the children adopted him as their adopted father.

Good ol' Daddy. Whenever, I got into a jam, "POP, I need ..." I had no problem requesting help. At times, I thought because I was his offspring, he's obligated to help me. As his oldest and only male child, I thought I was independent. I moved out on my own at age 18 and never looked back. However, whenever I ran into financial difficulties, I did what most kids did: "DAD, could I have some money?" Pop has always been there for me. If he had money to give, he would and asked few questions. He has been an incredible provider—even before it

became chic to take care of your children!

As I look back, I took, took, took and never once thought the wishing well could run dry. More importantly, he would need me.

As always, the tides of life DID change. Recently, I had a serious wake-up call! I remember I had concluded an Imani Umoja Discussion meeting when I received a call from my father's girlfriend. "Preston, your father had a massive stroke this morning. He's in intensive care at Bethany Hospital," she said softly. I froze. Sweat popped off my forehead and ringing echoed through the room. Her words cut like knives. It had only been just one-and-a-half years since my mother died from breast and liver cancer.

I drove as fast as I could to the West Side hospital. Tears rolled down my face in streams. "Lord, he's only 59 years old! Please, I can't lose him, too!" I said to myself. When I ran into the hospital room, Dad had tubes in his nose and mouth. He was hooked up to a respirator. "Daddy, I'm here." I grabbed his hand and held it. His large labored hands, worn from three decades of manual labor, still eclipsed mine. As I held and rubbed his hand, I remembered him and his hands. The same hand changed my diapers. The same hand patted me on the back for becoming the first Shumaker to graduate from College. The same hand that wiped my tears away as I cried at my mother's wake. Now, it was time to give him

my hand and my strength. I felt I was now the father and he, the child. It was the most humble experience of my life.

Today, Dad's health has improved drastically. He still can't function to the level he once did, but he's still here. During this stressful time, I realize just how much my father means to me and how precious life is. And I'm sure I'm not alone in my sentiment. The most important gift you can give your father is your time. It shouldn't take a catastrophic illness such as a massive stroke to let him know, he's not just a BANK! Take this opportunity to let him know he's appreciated and special. Take him out on the town. Better yet, go over to his home and reminisce about the good ol' times. Let your pop know he's unforgettable, too.

Peace & Happy Pop's Day, Readers! Comments?

Questions? E-mail Me at PrestonMSW.com.

BANANA SODOMY TRIAL UNDERWAY

The gay-sex trial of former Zimbabwean President Canaan Banana is underway in Harare. Banana, 62, faces 11 charges of sodomy, attempted sodomy and indecent assault on seven aides, a cook, a gardener and a bodyguard.

The flood of alleged victims came forward after the bodyguard murdered a fellow cop for allegedly having teased him with the nickname "Banana's wife."

Prosecutors will call 40 witnesses during the month-long trial, including Vice-President Simon Muzenda.

Banana has dismissed the charges as "a mortuary of pathological lies and a malicious vendetta of vilification and character assassination."

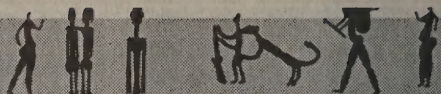
—Rex Wockner

Change in IMANI UMOJA Groups

The new African American Men's Gay and Bisexual group, Imani Umoja, will be split into two locations beginning in July. The group at Sinai family Health Centers will move its meetings to the second Thursday of the month. The other I.U. group will meet at Resurrection MCC, Davis Hall, 1164 E. 58th Street, on the third Friday of every month. Both groups will begin promptly at 7 p.m. For further information, please call Preston Shumaker at (773) 907-8993. Imani Umoja is also a proud co-sponsor of the first annual Lesbians of Color Film Festival at the Bailiwick theatre June 23, 1998.



PERSONALS



Those who have VOICE following their printed introductions have also left recorded introductions. Dial 1 (900) 454-0101. Increase your chances of a match: choose PROFILE and BROWSE options in the voice system. **WARNINGS:** 1. We no longer accept for print home phone numbers or addresses. 2. Vice officers sometimes respond to suspect ads in an effort to uncover illegal activity. Note: sex-for-money agreements (even if no sex occurs) are illegal. **CODE: ISO** = In Search Of

Men

GHM, 5'5", 150#, 40 yrs old. All time bottom seeks Black top 6' + 35 to 50 y/o possible LTR. Serious only. **VOICE 52740 (8)**

I suck Mexicans, all ages. E sus amigos. Also others. **NLBox 311 (9)**

Established, very attractive, good-natured, masculine, 42 y/o, 6', 190 #GPBM seeks LTR with quality, younger (25-35) well built, HIV-, handsome, soft-spoken, bottom. Photo & phone appreciated. **NLBox 309 (8)**

Endless passion, romance, love and long kisses under the moonlight. Nice looking Mexican 26, 6', 150#, ISO tall skinny Black guy to share dreams and loyal relationship. Can we just try? Serious only. Photo-phone to get answer. **NLBox 307 (8)**

Good looking GWM top seeks Black or Hispanic bottom for LTR. HIV- and hairy, am 40's, 6', 170#. Send recent photo. **NLBox 303 (7)**

SWM, 28, 5'9", 180#. Never been fucked or sucked cock. Looking for first experience. Age, race, weight unimportant. Send photo. **NLBox 301 (6)**

Sex, romance. Attractive top, discreet straight acting, nice body 5'9" 150# 31 yr BM seeks slim guys under 37 yr (any race) **Page Lee (312) 216-9101 (6)**

SWM, 28, 5'9", 180#. Never been fucked or sucked cock. Looking for first experience. Age, race, weight unimportant. Send photo. **NLBox 301 (6)**

GWM, 6'2", 215#, 48 y/o, HIV+, handsome, blond, caring, passionate bottom. ISO lovable GBM top, 30+, for LTR. **NLBox/Voice 52503 (6)**

WOMEN

There are so many beautiful Black women out there. But I'm only looking for one. SBF seeks single SBF 28-34. No children, must be intellectual, slim to medium build w/very short hair. Soft butch preferred. **NL 92**

Gay Black attached female, attractive, hot, 36, intelligent, educated, financially secure, non smok-

Personals

How to place an ad:

- The first 20 words are free; each additional word is 25¢. Ads run 2 Months. **ADS ARE FOR ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES.** Groups wishing to place ads in personals can do so at **CLASSIFIED** rates (\$10/30 words for 1 month, 3 months \$27).
- In addition to your ad, send your name, address, home phone & signature.
- You will be assigned a free voice-mailbox number, unless you specify you do not want one. You can record a voice-mail message for free; retrieving messages costs \$1.49 per minute. Upon receipt of your ad, we will send

your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.

- You can rent **BLACKLINES** mailbox/\$6 per month, if you wish to have written responses forwarded to you; we send them out once a week. (If you have your own PO Box, voice mail #, or beeper #, we request **\$5 per 2 months**. We **DO NOT** accept ads with home address/phone)
- Deadline is 10th of each month for next **BLACKLINES**. You can also run in **Nightlines** and **Outlines** and **En La Vida**.

How to respond to an ad:

- If an ad ends with an **NL/V #**, you can reply by mail or by phone to that ad (some ads will list an address + a voice-mail # in parentheses—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail).

• If ad ends with **NL BOX #**, you can only reply by mail. If it ends with **Voice #**, you can only reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).

- To respond in writing, send letter to the **NL/V #** or **NL BOX #** specified at the end of the ad, c/o **BLACKLINES, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chgo, IL 60657**. Respond to all others ads as specified at the end of the ad.
- To leave a voice-mail message (\$1.49/min.), use **touchtone** phone to call **1-900-454-0101**. Punch 1 & 5-digit **NL/V #** or **NL Voice #** to respond to that ad — or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages.

(773) 871-7610 (Tuesdays 9-5 only)

Ad should read

Please also run ad in (no extra money): ☐ Outlines ☐ Nightlines ☐ En La Vida
FREE voice-mail number (phone responses only!) ☐ I Do NOT want voice box #

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Classified rates (\$10 for 1 month, 3 months \$27).

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Cost of the ad:

1st 20 words, 2 months FREE
Additional words 25¢ ea. \$ _____
MailBox # (\$6 per month) \$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____
Send to: **BLACKLINES/Outlines, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657**

er, drinker, or drug user, lots of fun, with many interests, looking for a friends with similarities. Must be attractive over 5 ft, non smoker or drug user to spend free time with, converse and do girl things, etc. Age and race unimportant. **NLBox74 (8)**

Dyky looking feminist Lesbian with sense of adventure and humor, values personal/spiritual growth, intimate conversation, having fun, planning ahead and spontaneity, deep connections and independence (I'm still working on this one) and possesses language for my feelings and process (if an imperfect ability to always use it well), ISO lesbians with similar values/qualities

(and others) for friendship, possible dating. **NLBox 90 (8)**

If you're looking for a healthy, loving, caring, super sexy sister, page me! Single, no drugs, doesn't smoke, likes a simple life. **Page 323-9707**

28 y/o GWF with a kind heart and optimistic spirit seeks sincere GF 24-38 for friendship, possible LTR. I enjoy music, roadtrips, plays, outdoor sports (other than softball!) movies, and just exploring life. You? **NLBox 64 (6)**

Tell me your dreams. GHF 21 fun loving old soul. Loves poetry. Photography, clubs, and romance. Send letter. **NLBox68 (6)**

Are you a tall femme GWF willing to accept an affectionate GBF? This woman is seek-

ing you. Disease /drug free. **Voice 52683 (6)**

Lesbian feminist, academically inclined, early 30's, W, professional, ISO a solid, fun relationship. Passions include reading, chocolate, thoughtful conversation, animals, politics, sleeping outside, psychology, summer storms, lesbians and hazelnut lattes. **NLBox/Voice 52685 (7)**

Gay Latina, 21, ISO lesbians ages 21-30 for friendship and some clean fun! PO Bx 50165, Cicero, 60804 **NLBox 50 (6)**

Attractive 33 y/o GBF with one child. ISO attractive GBF 30-40 for serious relationship. No full figure women no games and no threesomes. **Pager (773) 226-5634 (6)**

Soft butch, Korean, funny,

outgoing. Mostly PC, active in community. Love movies. Computer genius. 5'4", 126#. What more could you ask for? Looking for same in femme. Korean or other Asian only. (773) 528-0073. (7)

Mix & Match

I like to jack off. Do you like to watch? SWM ISO women and M/F couples for no contact fun. **Voice 52736 (6)**

Want to come out and play? Do you lay in bed thinking of what you could be doing if only you had a male partner? Do you have a fantasy you want to try? Are you bored thinking of having a casual affair? Lets talk. I'm SWM 36 5'11" 160 #, clean and discreet. (708) 241-0364 or Jay .S. 1131 Lake St. #246, Oak Park, IL 60301(6)

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WhuzzUp this week in D.C.? Men's Event & Info Line in the Black Gay Capitol: 1-900-963-0230 (\$1.95 per min). *** ALSO TRY MALEBOX MAGAZINE: The Intimate Opinions, Experiences & Emotions of Black Gay Men \$24/12 issues (hardcopy only). More info: Malebox2@aol.com

WOMEN ARTISTS WANTED

WOMEN ARTISTS WANTED for a juried art show. Saturday, Oct. 10, 1998 at Prairie Moon, 864 E. Northwest Highway, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056. 3-ft spaces avail. for \$15 plus 10% of sales; 6-ft. spaces avail. for \$30 plus 10% of sales. **Send representative photo and brief description of your work with SASE to the store by 8-1-98. Fax questions to (847) 342-9614.** (7/98)

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OUT! GUIDE OUT

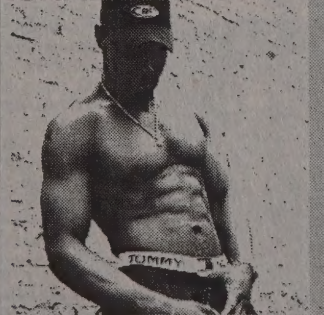
The OUT! Resource Guide, published by Lambda Publications, is now out! Call (773) 871-7610. The OUT! Resource Guide, published by Lambda Publications (EN LA VIDA, OUTLINES, NIGHTLINES, BLACKLINES) is now out. The guide includes thousands of resource listings, from businesses to organizations. Call (773) 871-7610.

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World View: World Wide Web

by Andrew Davis

Simplify Your Life

Does your life seem so hectic that you meet yourself coming when you're going? If so, you might benefit from the WebNotions eOrganizer, a free browser-based service that provides a variety of features to help you get your life together. There are loads of items, including a to-do list, appointment tracker, address book, notepad, and a birthday/anniversary reminder. (You might want to especially use that last feature; the relationship you save may be your own.) There are even lists dealing with zodiac signs and birthstones. In addition, the eOrganizer keeps all subscriber information secure, accessible only to the user when (s)he logs in to the system. It all starts by pointing your browser to <http://www.eorganizer.com> and completing a brief online registration form. (You can also log in as a visitor just to explore.) As part of registering, you can designate how frequently you would like

eOrganizer to notify you of scheduled items by e-mailing you reminders. The to-do list supports lists that can be seen by list name, priority or status (open or closed). Appointments are sorted by both date and time; naturally, these reminders stop after the appointment date has passed. The address book contains records information such as name, address (standard and e-mail), and numbers (phone, fax, and cellular). Essentially, eOrganizer seems like a rather ingenious way to take control of your life—and to achieve some peace of mind.

Andrew's Picks:

1. NBBMX (National Body of the Black Man's Xchange) (<http://home.earthlink.net/~blkembrace/nbbmx.htm>) is a cyber-magazine with some thought-provoking articles (current & upcoming) and welcome which spotlights the group's philosophy and history.

2. America's Premier Black Cowboy Band—Mike Mann and the Night Riders (<http://www.story.com/mann/INDEX.HTM>). Don't call this "out" house music! Take a spin through this site and read about a description of the band and find out what "cowboy soul" is all about, pardner.

Talk to me at gemin1@nwu.edu.



The 10th annual Lambda Literary Awards were held in Chicago in late May. Pictured top, from left, are Nancy Bereano of Firebrand Press, 'Dykes to Watch Out For' cartoonist Alison Bechdel, and Lisa Moore, editor of *does your mama know?* Moore won two awards.

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Chicagoan C.C. Carter performed her famous "Hips" poem for the crowd, and received loud applause. She's pictured left with author Jewel Gomez, and right with comic Kate Clinton, MC for the event.



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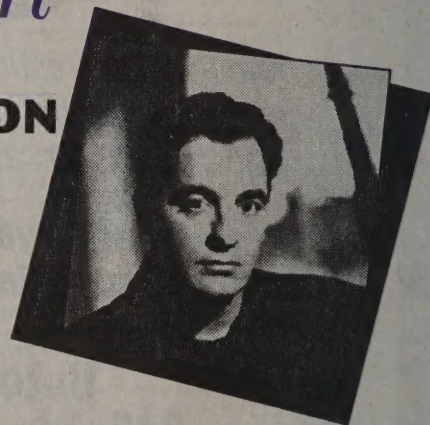
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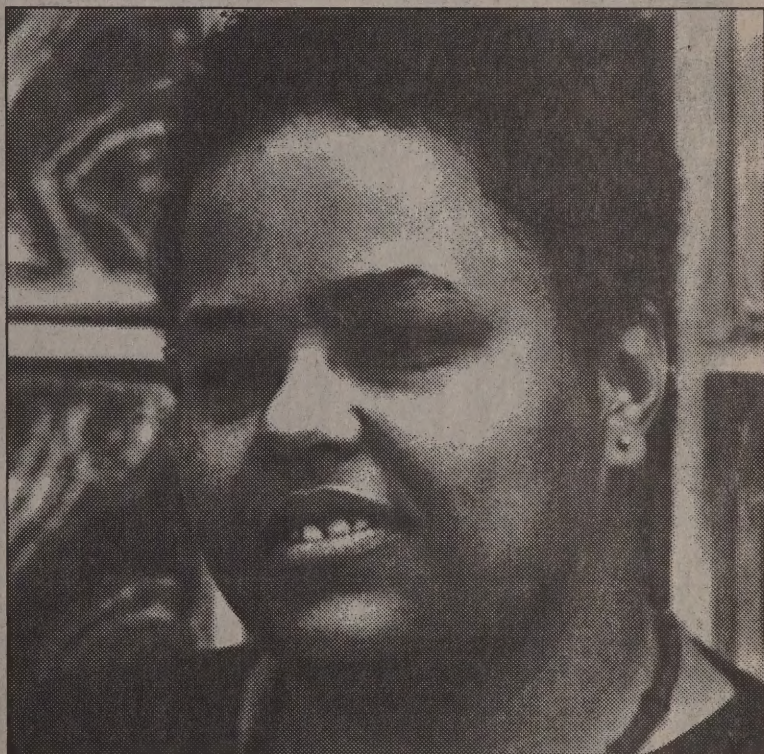
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Lesbigays at Bud Billiken
Parade. See page 16



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**Published by Lambda Publications, publishers
of: OUTLINES, Nightlines Weekly, En La Vida,
OUT! Resource Guide, CLOUT! Business Report**

DEADLINES:

Editorial: 5th of each month
Advertising: the 10th

AVAILABLE LAST WED. Each MONTH

Lambda Publications Staff:
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LAMBDA PUBLICATIONS,
1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D,
CHICAGO, IL 60657 USA.

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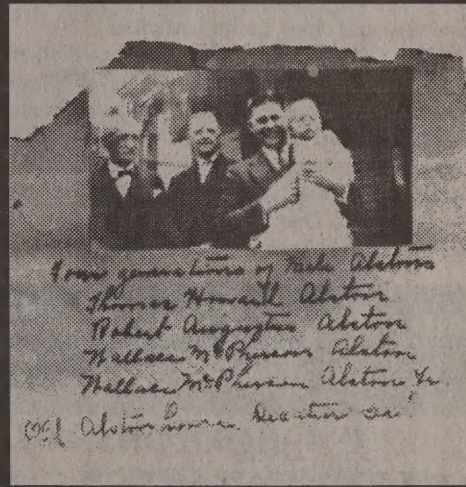
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A kiss is just a kiss ... see page 10 for a close-up look at a recent lesbian wedding in town. BELOW: 'Family Values' looks at a gay man discovering the past skeletons in his family's closet—that they were slaveowners. See page 12 for a review.



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Editorial

by **LaJaunessee Jordan**



"Yes Michigan!" Ever see that bumper sticker? I'm convinced it was created by womyn who have been to the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival.

When I arrived there this year, I took everything to the general area where I would be camping and went directly to the Womyn of Color Tent. I talked and hung out there until after 2 a.m. I walked down Easy Street and the main road with just enough moonlight to see the path. I saw a shadow coming from the other direction. I didn't worry that I would be raped, robbed or anything negative. I didn't go back to my stuff until about 9 a.m. I had left all of my worldly Michigan goods and had no worries that they would be touched or taken. Try that on any Chicago street. My only worry during Michigan was that I would forget and leave some food in my pocket and the raccoons would chew through my tent.

I had many highlights at the fest. Alice Walker was there. (See MWMF report, page 25, for an unbelievable quote from her.) She came to the WOC tent and introduced herself to individuals simply saying, "Hi, I'm Alice." In the WOC Sanctuary she sat (easily unnoticed) around the campfire with about 25 of us as womyn drummed and sang. Sweet Honey in the Rock gave us three encores. One of my favorite moments was when they sang, "We who believe in freedom shall not rest. We who

HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Affinity, Jackie Anderson, Anonymous, Tracy Bairn, Alden Bell, BLACKLINES, EN LA VIDA, Jim Boushay, C.C. Carter, Robert Castillo, Jon Dallas, La Jaunessee Jordan, Literary Exchange, John Pennycuff, Rickey Sain, Sr., Robert Schultz, Chris Smith, Verna Turner, The Vix (Victor, Ron), Israel Wrih t...

These are just some of the people who have committed to help make Black women with and without children who live or have lived in a shelter, Black men with AIDS and Latino families have a better holiday season.

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believe in freedom shall not rest until it's won." Another was hearing Ubaka Hill's amazing drumming and singing.

Yours truly was the MC for the Salon of the Rainbow Clitoris — WOC poetry/entertainment. The MWMF program book said this was where you could "hear about good womyn gone bad and bad womyn becoming completely unmanageable." WOC from all over the U.S., Canada and elsewhere performed. I got rave reviews on my poetry and comedy but was saddened by the reason I was MC. Impy Simms, who passed recently, worked closely with Pat McCombs (coordinator of the WOC tent, sanctuary and patio) and Impy was usually the MC. Pat dedicated a section of the tent to Impy with photos and clippings.

When I went to the Womb (healthcare tent) the womyn there took excellent care of me. There is the Oasis for emotional support, a sober support tent, the over 40s tent, the over 50s camping area for those with special needs, DART—the differently abled womyn's camping area. There is the Community Center where womyn quilt, play games or just gather. There is the WOC Barter Market, in the tradition of our foremothers (no money allowed). There are close to 300 workshops for something for everyone: a home electrical workshop, safer sex, comedy improv for beginners, drumming, dancing, SM, against SM, What's happening with that WOC project thing?, herbalists, flag football and hundreds more. There are four different stages (including an open mike) with entertainment from noon until 2 a.m. There are long dinner lines, but there is entertainment and the lines move quickly.

For a week, 6,300 womyn lived together with minimal problems.

As I walked down the Tubman Trail (thinking about Harriet and how fitting the trail is named) I contemplated my return to the complications of patriarchy and to several fears greater than raccoons. And I realize how this week helps me make it through the other 51. Yes Michigan!

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National Black L&G Forum Hosts Meeting Aug. 28

by Robert Schultz

The National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum will hold a Chicago Town Meeting Friday, Aug. 28. National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum Board Chair Willa Taylor says the Forum wants to "get a sense of what the constituents want" by conducting a town meetings. The Chicago Town Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at Affinity 5650 S. Woodlawn (garden level); 312-409-4917.

The Forum's goal is to provide local input for creating a national Black lesbian/gay/trans agenda. All groups and members of the community are encouraged to attend, reports local Forum Board Member Renae Ogletree.

According to the Leadership Forum's Board Chair, Chicago's town meeting will be the third in a series of seven meetings. Town meetings have been held in Detroit and Washington, D.C. Approximately 60 people attended each of the meetings. Town meetings are set for Charlotte, N.C.; New York City, Denver, and Atlanta.

The first town meeting, held in D.C., was organized to get community feedback about the Millennium March organized by the Human Rights Campaign and the Metropolitan Community Church. Several groups and individuals

are questioning whether organizing for the march is inclusive and representative of the queer community. It quickly became apparent that the Millennium March was a "peripheral issue" for those attending the D.C. meeting. The role of Black lesbians in the larger Black community and the role of Black lesbian/gay/trans groups in lesbian/gay politics were the central issues.

The need to have additional meetings in communities across the country became apparent to the Forum's Board.

Whereas for the larger gay community the issue of same-sex marriage predominates, Board chair Taylor noted that within her segment of the lesbian/gay community other problems are important, such as people losing jobs, or worrying about getting an education for themselves or their children. "Gay marriage is not a defining issue," she noted.

Taylor explained how the Forum is perceived to be an organization with an 11-year history when in reality it's only two years old as a national organization with a national board. Issues of infrastructure predominated the agenda over the national board's first months of existence. "We were running to catch up," is how Taylor explained that early stage. Now philosophical issues such as 'why does the organization exist' and 'what should predominate' are being addressed. To date the annual conference has consumed much of the organization's energy.

Earlier this year the Forum's executive director left his position to join the board.

The reorganization is a result of the board being "proactive," said Taylor. "There is a management team in place."

Taylor explained that the Forum always needs money and that financial resources are being utilized with as "little fat" as possible.

Chicago Black Lesbians Elects New Leadership

Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays has announced their 1998-99 Steering committee officers and members. Lora Branch and Shelton Watson were elected co-chairs, and the following officers were elected: Treasurer Michael Pleasants; Recording Secretary Verna Turner; Corresponding Secretary Susan Stanley.

The following were newly elected to two-year steering committee terms: Joseph Boynton, William Hall IV, Angela McCarty, Verna Turner, Donna Rose Weems, Kathleen Rose Winter, C.C. Carter, Toni Carrigan, and Pat McCombs.

The following are returning to the steering committee for two-year terms: Michaela Purdue, W. Robert Schultz III, Michael Pleasants, Susan Stanley, Shelton Watson, and Lora Branch.

The following are returning steering committee members for one-year terms: Paris Brewer, Troy Ford, Sherri Jackson, Renae Ogletree, Vernita Gray, Michael Harrington, Gary Rice, Bennett Williams and Israel Wright.

Call (312) 409-4917 for info.



MACT-CHICAGO MARKS 18TH ANNIVERSARY

The Chicago chapter of Men of All Colors Together celebrated its 18th anniversary with a weekend of events in August. Pictured are folks at the anniversary banquet. Keynote speaker was openly gay state Rep. Larry McKeon. Mary Morten, the mayor's lesbian/gay liaison, also attended. TOP, LEFT: Ed Fleming, Preston Shumaker, John Vivo and Les Everett. RIGHT: Men enjoying the all colors together. BELOW: Rep. Larry McKeon, Shumaker, and Pat Curran (MACT co-chair).

Photos by Robert Schultz.

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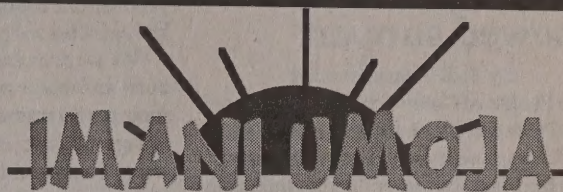
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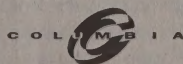
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Photos: Peter Ross

PCC ends AIDS Walk boycott, pledges renewed support

by P.J. Engelbrecht

The People of Color Coalition announced Aug. 7 that the year-long boycott of AIDS Walk Chicago was over. The group thus concluded their two-year "community campaign to have a more inclusive AIDS Walk Chicago."

"We feel that you have made significant progress on the issues we have raised," PCC leaders wrote in an Aug. 11 open letter to the AIDS Walk board. Signatories Nikita Buckhoy, Martin Gonzalez, Renae Ogletree and Robert Schultz (a BLACKLINES staff member) said that they "want to see this year's Walk surpass the revenues raised in previous years."

AIDS Walk board president Chuck Hoag expressed surprise to learn the boycott was over when contacted by BLACKLINES Aug. 18 (Hoag could not be reached for comment by press time.)

"We did get a letter from [the PCC], but not related to the end of the boycott," Hoag said. "From AIDS Walk's perspective, we are very proud of our accomplishments in the past year and believe that the changes we have made ... are in the best interest of AIDS Walk Chicago and especially those living with HIV/AIDS. ...

"I get the impression that they [i.e. the PCC] are pleased. ... What I'm happiest about is that they're joining in the fight against AIDS and that they're going to join with us in raising money for AIDS Walk. ... We're so much stronger when we all work together."

While never publicly acceding to PCC demands, within the past year, AIDS Walk has added board members not affiliated with service agencies, including persons of color, and has brought five service agencies into the consortium, including three in communities of color, thus fulfilling the PCC's most urgent demand, that AIDS Walk better reflect the communities which its members serve.

The PCC still hopes the AIDS Walk board will soon choose to add at least one HIV+ individual, however. "We don't know that we don't have a HIV+ person on the board now," Hoag retorted. "It's not something we have asked. ... That's a personal decision, [though] we are certainly interested in recruiting someone who is openly HIV+. ... Diversity strengthens any board."

The PCC letter reserved judgement only on whether the AIDS Walk board had made sufficient provisions for new consortium

members to participate fully and effectively in the 1998 Walk, describing as "unclear" new members' financial obligations to investment in the event and how new member agencies are to field Walk volunteers.

"We want to ensure that [the new members] are able to receive the full benefits of their participation," the letter explained. Hoag said Aug. 18 that the AIDS Walk board was "in the process of drafting a response" which PCC leaders could anticipate receiving "in the next day or so."

The AIDS Walk head described consortium agency "contract objectives [as necessarily] high for all members," but said "there is a lightly less financial commitment for new members this year." That is, new consortium agencies will not be required to raise as much in pledges for AIDS Walk 9, held on the lakefront Sept. 27, but Hoag confirmed that all 16 agencies will receive equal shares of the proceeds.

"We won," declared Ogletree Aug. 11. "We're gonna work very hard to support the new partners." The PCC calls for "a vigorous response by communities of color to support the new AIDS Walk agencies in communities of color," and Ogletree noted the PCC was "very grateful" for the community and corporate support for PCC.

Rocks attack suspect speaks out, claims self-defense

by P.J. Engelbrecht

Chicago Police detectives have been seeking a female suspect since Pride Day, June 28, after a lakefront incident at the Rocks Party '98 during which an African-American lesbian was "stabbed" by an acquaintance during a disagreement reportedly involving their girlfriends. The victim's wounds were later described as superficial by 23rd District police.

After OUTLINES reported that the CPD was still seeking Courtney Singleton in connection with the assault, Singleton herself contacted OUTLINES to tell her side of the story.

"I just don't want to look like someone who stabbed someone," Singleton said August 7. "In actuality, I'm the one who was the victim. ... I'm the one who's called the police [before]." As Singleton explains it, the Rocks incident was precipitated by an on-going legal battle between herself and the slashing victim.

Singleton says the Rocks victim has harassed her for months in a tendentious dispute over a now-mutual-ex-girlfriend, calling Singleton repeatedly and even breaking windows in the house where she lives with her 4-year-old daughter.

On February 6, the Rocks victim was her-

self the perpetrator in a "damage to personal property" incident which left Singleton with \$3,800 damage to her car after the other woman rammed it nearly a half-dozen times with her own vehicle.

The Rocks victim was convicted and handed a "six months' supervision" sentence, and "me and her have been in and out the court system ever since," said Singleton, who sued the woman in civil court and was awarded the \$3,800 damages plus costs on July 27.

The Pride Day altercation involved two encounters, Singleton said. First, there was a complicated exchange of harsh words between Singleton, the mutual ex, the victim and at least one other woman.

Then, says Singleton, the victim "came at me—first, she tried to grab [the ex], then she came at me ... trying to hit me, but I didn't even give her the chance, and I stabbed her in the hand [with] a kitchen knife." Singleton said she was carrying the knife at the party both for barbecuing and for self-protection.

"I was gonna go home," Singleton continued. "As I'm walking to my tent ... she comes behind me with a bottle ... and when I turned around, she tried to strike me, and that's when I pulled out the knife again and 'stabbed' her again. ... When she stepped back and grabbed her head, I just ran."

That is, in both events, Singleton says she perceived herself to be under assault and defended herself. CPD detectives are aware of the long-standing bad blood between the women and reportedly are not pursuing Singleton vigorously.

"I came out to enjoy myself [at the Rocks]. I didn't expect it to escalate to that," Singleton exclaimed. Now, she fears her reputation and livelihood are on the line and that she may wind up in jail.

When she talked to OUTLINES, Singleton had not yet received a summons or been served with a warrant in the Rocks incident. She said she would be willing to cooperate with a CPD detective's suggestion that she and her apparent nemesis "talk this out," but isn't hopeful that they could successfully bury the hatchet.

Rocks Party-goer Rhonda Mosley was initially mistaken for the attacker because she appeared to have run from the scene, but CPD officers soon determined she was not the culprit.

However, Mosley was subsequently arrested for "disorderly conduct," reportedly for making a disturbance and impeding police. Under questioning at the 23rd District HQ, Mosley revealed herself to be acquainted with Singleton, the alleged assailant.

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Mayor



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- **Renee Hanover**, Veteran Civil Rights Attorney, Chicago
- **David Sinski, Assoc. Director**, Mujeres Latinas En Accion, Chicago

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Evette Cardona, WACT/Amigas Latinas

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Wedding Belles

by Vicky Nabors

First, there was Luther and his Wedding Song, "Here and now, I promise to love faithfully, you're all I need." And, there she stood in all her radiant glow, the bride. Her long cathedral train cascaded behind her in the curve of the winding stairway in which she began to descend. "Here and now I vow to be one with thee, your love is all I need." The sweet sounds of Luther Vandross filled the Unitarian Church as more than 100 guests witnessed the commitment vows of Vanessa Kimble and Fenicia Rosario. Darlene White escorted the bride down the stairway and handed her to her 22-year-old son, Orlando. He had the honor of escorting her down the aisle and presenting her to the person who she would spend the rest of her life with, Vanessa. Dressed in a white tux, black tie and cummerbund, Vanessa took the hand of her bride and together they turned to face the officiating minister, Rev. Wayne Bradley. From there Celine Dion took over with her smooth and most appropriate lyrics, "Because You Loved Me."

On July 25, 1998, Vanessa and her ladylove Fenicia were joined in the union of marriage at the Unitarian Church of Evanston. For Fenicia it was her dream wedding come true, the service was traditional in all ways. The bride wore a traditional sleeveless white cathedral dress laced in stones with a long train and a tiara headpiece. Three bridesmaids, (Yolanda Barlow, Charlene Grey, and Olivia Tann-Howard) wore silver mini dresses with floor-length waist wraps that were removed at the reception. The matron of honor was Mrs. Sharon Buggs, Fenicia's aunt. Finally, the flower girl, Dezvon Green was dressed in a beautiful white dress that matched the brides minus the train.

The best man (Larry Weaver, Vanessa's brother), handsome attendants (Jackie Anderson, Myra Guy-Brooks, Tracey Smith, and Kim Hardaway), and ring bearer, Preston Lyburtus, were all sharp in their black tuxedos. Even the ushers, Beth Alexander and Chris Woods, who staffed the guest table and the doors, wore black tuxes. For those of you who love big traditional weddings, this was it. There was a spiritual love poem read by Michia Kimbrough and Vanessa's cousin Cynthia Kimble sang "Ribbon in The Sky." Finally, the couple lit a unity candle, exchanged rings and the kiss. At that point the reception was on.



Vanessa Kimble (left) and Fenicia Rosario.
Photos by Vicky Nabors

The three-tier wedding cake was magnificent, topped with two white doves. A Black lesbian affair is not an affair without the delicious catering of our own Chef Tania. After the reception, the couple and a few of their close friends left for a private party in a suite at the Haytt Regency in downtown Chicago, which is where they spent their honeymoon. Let me mention that there was a bachelor party with a stripper and a bridal shower.

A few days before the wedding I interviewed the couple at their home. Fenicia, 40, was just arriving home as I parked in front of their building. "I've been running all day trying to wrap up some final things for Saturday," Fenicia says. I helped her bring her things into their apartment where Vanessa, 40, greeted us. The following are excerpts from that interview.

Tell me how the two of you met?

Fenicia: "We met on March 27, 1997 at Paris Dance between 11:30 and midnight. After consulting with my friend it was decided that I would ask Vanessa to dance." Vanessa: "I brought Fenicia and her girlfriend drinks and spent some time talking with them. I thought that she was a

beautiful woman and hoped that she was as beautiful on the inside as well."

Their first date was the very next evening. "I was so anxious and excited about the date that I over-slept and was late picking her up," said Vanessa.

Apparently, no harm was done because they spent the rest of the evening sitting on the floor of Vanessa's apartment talking over fruit and music.

The couple has lived together for most of the

16 months since they met. A proud moment for them was last year when Mayor Daley implemented the benefits program for gay and lesbian city employees (domestic partners). Fenicia said, "I knew that she must have really loved me because, when we first got together she told me that she didn't want people on her job to know that she was a lesbian." Vanessa said, "They make you come out, they make you come out full fledged and admit that you are gay. They make you sign a big affidavit and bring in proof, but I did it. Now she is on my insurance and entitled to the same benefits that I am. Nothing on my job has changed since I did that so, it was a good move all the way around."

As for the future, the couple want to settle into a home, prosper and just enjoy life together. Fenicia: "Vanessa has brought balance into my life. Whether I am too high or too low, she is able to help me find balance. I am excited about having someone in my life that I can look forward to spending my days with. One thing that I like about this relationship is that we both put God first. We have a spiritual balance." Vanessa: "Fenicia is patient she listens to me and I didn't have that in relationships of the past. We are a team, a partnership. We're our soul-mates." Both women burst into laughter when I asked about children in their future. I guess that meant no way! My best wishes go out to Vanessa and Fenicia, for the road that they have embarked upon is not an easy road to travel. In the Black community we are taught that if we put God first, all things are possible. God Bless!



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Chicago Historical Society A

House Divided: America in the Age of Lincoln explores slavery during Civil War era. (312) 642-4600

Communities of Women Art

Gallery *From My Center* Four African-American, Chicago area women artists, Simone Bouyer, Juarez Hawkins, Sylvia Westbrook, Donna Joy Wolfe (various media) discourse on inspiration, driving force behind their works. Thru Sept 12 30 E Adams (773) 275-1319

The Dusable Museum of African

American History *African Fest of the Arts* on grounds Sept 4-7, 11a-10p. New: Sunday Free Days. *Hoop History*, Nike and DuSable collaborate. Chicago's basketball legends of past, including the Women's Game, historic street basketball sites, interactive displays, film series, thru Dec 31. Also *Harold Washington In Office*, a permanent exhibition, with composite office setting; memorabilia;

personal, career effects. 740 E 56th Place 57th and Cottage Grove Ave Washington Park. (773) 947-0600

Gruen Gallery Extensive new collection of African artifacts (312) 337-6262.

Illinois Art Gallery Spiritual

Passports/Transformative Journey a cross-cultural look at mythology, spirituality. Aug 31-Oct 23. Diverse racial, ethnic, cultural artists. (312) 814-5322

Illinois Artisans Shop Ethnic Arts

Bazaar Polish, Italian, Eastern European, Jewish, Afro-American, Meso-American, Native American. Meet the artists. Sept 9, 10 Thompson Ctr (312) 814-1794

Jazz Mart Jazz photo exhibit by

photographer, and Blacklines contributor, Pat Robinson. Coincides with Jazz Fest in Grant Park. Thru Nov 17. Dizzy Gillespie, Casandra Wilson and Bradford Marsalis depicted in performance and candid settings. Sept 4-Nov 17, 444 N Wabash (312) 222-1467

Urban Art Retreat On the Streets

by homeless artist Kate Bronwyn. Discussion of needs, solutions for homeless artists Part II, Sept 19, 3-5p. (773) 275-1319

See NIGHTLINES and OUTLINES weeklies for more detailed calendar, arts, dance and theatre listings. Also see our world wide web page for complete calendar and arts info.

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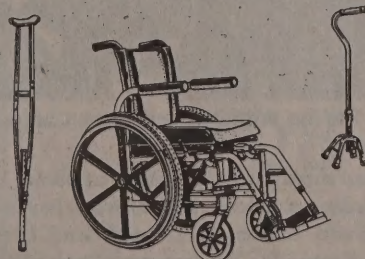
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TV: The Ties That Wind

by Andrew Davis

Surely you've heard a version of the adage that, although we are different colors, we are all brothers (and sisters) under the skin. However, that axiom has never rung more true than in *Family Name*, a documentary that unflinchingly—and movingly—examines the juxtaposition of race, slavery, and family.

Macky Alston is narrator, director, and co-writer of this journey to (self-) discovery (airing on PBS's P.O.V. Sept. 15). His trek begins during his childhood in North Carolina, when the white youngster notices that he shares the same surname that many of his African-American classmates have. Eventually, his father (a civil-rights leader) gives Macky a book detailing the family's genealogy—and the young man discovers that his ancestors formed one of the largest slave-owning families in the state. Macky travels to Pittsboro, NC, where all things seem to have an Alston connection. Many businesses bear the name and the phone book is deluged with Alstons, both Black and white. However, Macky's efforts to uncover the connection between slavery and family are stymied when people react to his inquiries with indifference and/or reticence. However, the persistent documentarian ultimately travels up the East Coast, where he locates a musician named Fred Alston, Jr. Fred was born into a family who worked on the land owned



Gay filmmaker Macky Alston (left and below) with George DeGraffenreid. LOWER LEFT: Four generations of the Alston family; the youngest is the father of Macky; the oldest, far left, was a slave owner.



by Macky's relatives. Macky eventually invites Fred to return to North Carolina in an effort to re-establish his family ties—and the musician accepts. Macky also runs into others, such as storyteller Charlotte Alston (who, as it turns out, married into the family). However, the most useful relatives are Aida and Rousmaniere Alston, relatives of a Harlem Renaissance painter named Charles Alston. They reveal stories of their father, The Reverend Primus Priss

Alston (1851-1910), who was a minister in North Carolina. Their assistance leads Macky to more helpful Carolinians and he discovers that Primus was born a slave who was owned by Macky's cousins Nathaniel Macon Alston and his wife Patsy. Moreover, after speculating that Nathaniel may have turned to slaves for sexual gratification, he theorizes that Nathaniel may have even been Primus' father.

The film climaxes in a gathering of Black and white Alstons topped off by a performance from Fred Alston, Jr. Amazingly, the Black and white branches unknowingly had been holding family reunions just miles from each other in the same week.

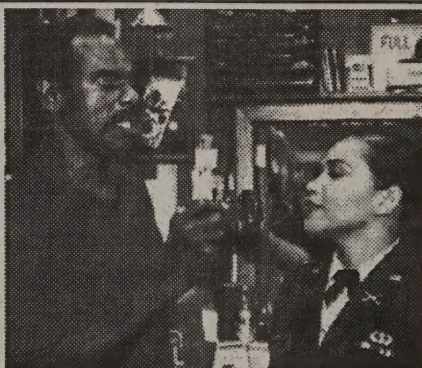
This documentary is chock full of pivotal and gripping moments: when Macky asks a Black Alston if she's mad at him; when there's a confrontation between Macky's sister (also named Charlotte) and their father about bigotry; when a speech by Primus celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Emancipation is read; when there's a discussion between Macky and Vincent Alston, an HIV+ individual researching the Alston roots from the Black perspective; when Macky reveals that he can't tell Rousmaniere the news because she's passed away; and, of course, when all the Alstons get together.

As involving as the story is, there is one problem—and it's with Macky Alston himself. It could be because of his laid-back style, but his delivery was at times too easygoing; in fact, at certain moments he sounded downright unemotional. His narration sometimes served to take some edge off of moments that could have been even more emotionally complex.

However, as he progresses along his geographical, genealogical, and spiritual odyssey, you can't help but go along for the ride. Nevertheless, that is the only quibble with this program. Personally speaking, I applaud his bravery in dealing with family secrets—and, as a gay man, Macky knows about secrets. Not only does Macky confront the skeletons in his closet; he bares their bones for everyone to see and, in the process, heals old wounds and fosters new relationships. On the road to (self-) discovery, one can't ask for more than that. *Family Name* will be shown on PBS Tuesday, Sept. 15 (WTTW-Channel 11 in Chicago).

Showtime's Black Lesbians

There are two new edgy Showtime series, and both will have Black lesbian minor characters. *Linc's* is a new show starring Pam "Jackie Brown" Grier and set in a D.C. bar catering mostly to Blacks. One sub-character, Rosalee (played by *Martin's* Tisha Campbell) is in the military and comes out to her dad, the other co-star, played by *The X-Files'* Steven Williams. While he reacts initially with shock and disappointment, Linc later comes to understand that Rosalee needs his love and support. On *Rude Awakening*, the network's new comedy starring Sherilyn Fenn (*Twin Peaks*) as Billie, lesbians and same-sex experiences are presented simply as part of life. And during a meeting at Addictions Anonymous (for her drinking problem), she befriends Jackie (Rain Pryor) a cooky African-American lesbian with an even wackier girlfriend. Lynn Redgrave plays Billie's mother. Contact: Peter Keramidas, Programming Senior Vice President, Showtime Networks, Inc., 1633 Broadway, 17th Floor, NY, NY 10019-6708



Steven Williams and Tisha Campbell.

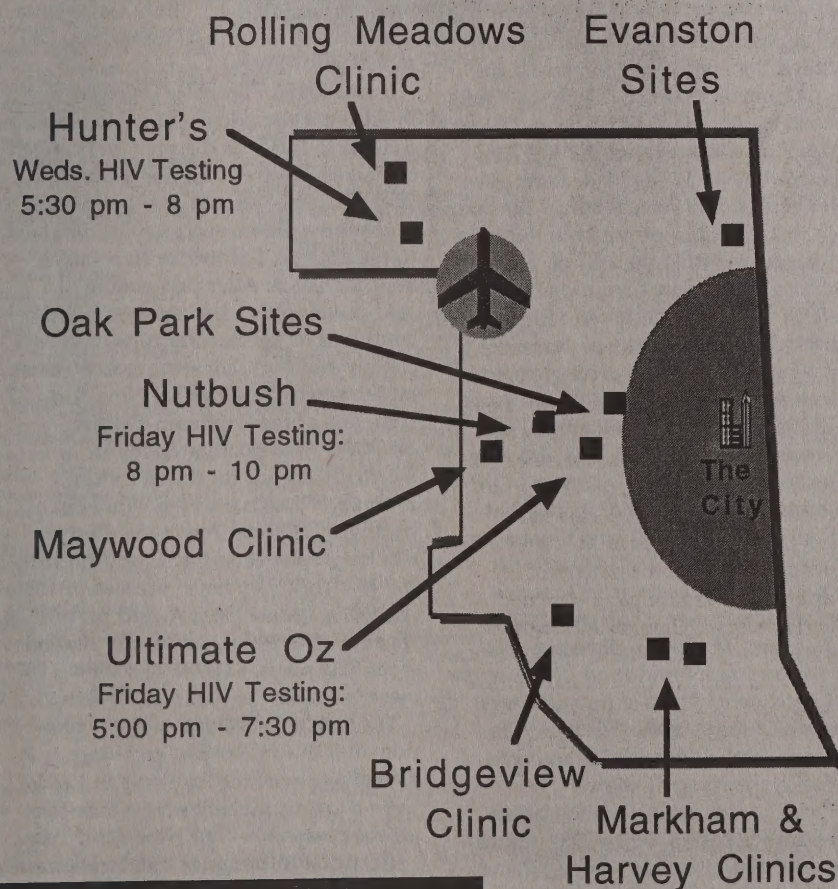
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'Da Beat, 'Da Noise, 'Da Funk; Fancy Footwork Illustrates Black History

by Lester Davis

Savion Glover's four-time Tony Award-winning musical, direct from Broadway, *Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk* was a smashing hit in Chicago at the Shubert Theatre June 16-July 12. *Noise/Funk* returned to the Shubert for one extended week Aug. 4-9 to give Chicago an encore performance. This groundbreaking ensemble piece, based on an idea and choreographed by Savion Glover and directed by George C. Wolfe, was superb in tap and Black History. Derrick Grant, a member of the original 1995 cast at the Joseph Papp Public Theatre, understudy to Glover, arrived in Chicago replacing Savion's role as choreographer in the road show version of this phenomenal performance. According to the CHICAGO TRIBUNE, "*Noise/Funk* is the best!"

Noise/Funk consists of five dancers, two percussionists, one singer and one narrator. The cast members: Sean C. Fielder/Jimmy Tate, Dominique Kelley,



Dennis Dove and David Peter Chapman in 'Noise.'

Christopher A. Scott, Thomas Silcott, Vickilyn Reynolds, David Peter Chapman, Dennis J. Dove, and B. Jason Young opened by singing their hit song, "Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk." And Vickilyn Reynolds' 'da lead singer gave you fierce gospel notes that had the audience rocking back and forth on the edge of their seats, while she and the company took you vicariously back to the Middle Passage of the slave ships in song and tap. The highlight of this performance was when David and Dennis gave us percussion sounds using pots and pans in the scene called, "The Panhandlers."

However, the audience was also able to reflect back on America's history of the murders and lynchings of Blacks that took place in the South; and illustrations of how Blacks migrated to the North from the South to prosper. Chicago's DEFENDER archives were surprisingly good to see. The visual projection displayed on stage about some of Chicago's history showed the race riots that took place in Chicago in the '50s and '60s. This excellent choreography conveyed a message about segregation.

The mirrored images of the Harlem Renaissance period, where Tap originated, were also awesome. Green, Chaney, Buster, Slyde were legendary tap dancers who developed a style of their own; some called it hoofing-fancy footwork; which took this art form well into dance halls, lounges, and stages in the North.

The music by Ann Duquesnay, Zane Mark, and Daryl Waters and the poetry written by Reg E. Gaines gave homage to the rhythms of gospel and hip hop. All of the songs (gospel, ragtime, blues, funk) were sung to percussive tap beat choreographed by Savion to create a look at the cutting

edge of Black history.

Savion said that he did not want to beat people on the head with history, but he wanted the audience to explore what history truly is; a series of amazing events. "History doesn't happen to cultures. It doesn't happen to races. It happens to people. When you fully claim your history, you can

soar," said Glover.

If you missed *Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk* then don't miss September's STOMP. STOMP is directed and created by Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas. The international percussion sensation makes a successful return back to the Shubert Theatre for two weeks Sept. 22-Oct. 4. After performing to a sold-out audience last season, STOMP continues its spectacular runs with two concurrent tours, covering over 50 cities on the road, as well as the New York company at the Orpheum Theatre.

STOMP was nominated for an Academy Award for the short film, *Broom*. STOMP is also the winner of a prestigious Olivier Award for Best Choreography (London's Tony Award). In New York they have received an Obie Award, a Drama Desk Award for unique theatre experience, and special citation from Best plays. STOMP has shown its superb display on national TV shows.

The CHICAGO TRIBUNE says, "A phenomenal show! Bashing, crashing, smashing, swishing, banging and kicking—a joyous invention!" "A sure-fire crowd pleaser!" — THE NEW YORK TIMES.

For ticket information call Ticketmaster at (312) 302-1500 or tickets can be purchased at the Shubert Theatre box office.



Stomp

DANCE

Aug 29: Dance for Life Skyline Stage 7:30p
Beneficiaries: Open Hand, Howard Brown Health Center, Dance For Life Fund (773) 665-1000

Sept 2: Hubbard Street Dance at Ravinia Fest thru Sept 5, with 5th *Dancin' in the Moonlight* benefit Sept 4, starting on a train leaving Northwestern Station at 5:50p (312) 850-9744

Sept 9: Jellyeye, Chicago's action/drum theatre. Dance/movement = unique rhythmic theatricality thru Oct 18. Part of diversity that is Pegasus Players twentieth season (773) 878-9761

Sept 12: Grupo Afro Cuba de Matanzas (Cuba) & Los Hermanos Cepeda (Puerto Rico) *Dos Alas/Two Wings* The two countries as two wings of the same bird. Vocal, percussion, dance. Afro-Cuban rumba and Afro-Puerto Rican bomba combine into an all new rumbombaso. Museum of Cont. Art thru Sept 13. (312) 280-2660

Sept. 18, 19: Love Songs, by David Rousseve/Reality Dance/theater. Explore love stories that span time and cultures, from the love shared by two African slaves and their dramatic attempts at freedom, to the bittersweet relations of modern-day lovers. Rousseve is an openly gay choreographer profiled by BLACKLINES last year. Dance Center of Columbia College. Thru Sept 19 (773) 989-3310

Oct 2:: Urban Rhythms DanceAfrica Chicago 1998. Educational, cultural events, African marketplace, previews, lectures, classes, culminate in four performances with African American Dance Ensemble; *Dos Alas*; *Two Wings*; *Iwisa Music and Dance Co.*; Rennie Harris PureMovement; *Urban Credo*; *Spirited Voices*; and *Echoes Visions*, Oct 23-25 Auditorium Th., 50 E Congress (312) 360-9276

CALENDAR

Thursday, Aug. 27

Chicago Cultural Center "B-Days @ the CCC": today, legendary jazz saxophonist Von Freeman blows horn w/ his Trio for Lester Young's b-day, 1p, 77 E Randolph. (312) 744-1426.
Club inta "An Intimate Affair," 308 W Erie. (312) 664-6595.
ILGRA (Ill Gay Rodeo Assoc) Hey, ya buckeroos! 'S here, 's here! Th' Windy City RODEO runs Sat/Sun! (312) 335-3399.
The Vix "Bid Whist at Vix" 2814 N Halsted. (773) 529-3999.

Friday, Aug. 28

Chicago Cultural Center "B-Days @ the CCC": today's party is for the Bird fans: Eric Schneider Trio honors jazz god Charlie Parker. (312) 744-1426.
HotHouse Ghannatta Afro Pop Dance Party, 10p, \$7. @ 31 E Balbo, (773) 235-2334.
Kindred Hearts Drumming Circle (847) 604-0913.
Last House on the Block (Gay-Closed AA) 7-8p Fri. @ Hyde Park Neighborhood Club, 5480 S Kenwood. (312) 366-4573.
Temptations 10-yr Anniversary Bash thru Aug 30! Franklin Pk, Ill. (847) 455-0008.
Women & Children First & Howard Brown Health Center co-host benefit reception for The Lesbian Health Fund, (773) 769-9299

Saturday, Aug. 29

Chef Tania Prods. Partying every Sat! @ The Vix, 2814 N Halsted. (773) 581-9457.
Come As You Are Gospel Music Festival South Shore Cultural Center, 11a-11p. Info (312) 744-3315.
HotHouse African Festival of the Arts (773) 235-2334.
Star Gaze (Cafe Ashlie) Phrasority; DJ Ron Carroll. 5419 N Clark, (773) 561-7363.
Stonewall Democrats gay Congressman Barney Frank, D-Mass, 4-6p, \$35. @ Ann Sather's (773) 275-2470.

Sunday, Aug. 30

Generator Boyz Nite Out Suns: Otis Mack directs Heavy Diva Prods' (773) 243-8889.

Monday, Aug. 31

Annex 3 take in Tasha Long's farewell performance as Miss Continental, b4 giving up her crown next week! 9:30p-12:30a. @ Annex 3, 3160 N Clark. (312) 644-5269.
HotHouse 47th St Jazz Review, (773) 235-2334.
WTTW Ch. 11 PBS In the Life's "Lights, Camera, Activism" episode, stories from Ivory Coast, Germany, China, Can. 11p.

Tuesday, Sept. 1

BROTHERS United Together HIV+ men's discussion group org by Brothers C.A.N. meets Tues 7-9p, @ Stop AIDS, 1718

E 75th St. Info (773) 752-7867.

Wed., Sept. 2

Chicago Cultural Center Jazz Institute of Chi's 5th Annual Jazz Club Tour features Kimberly Gordon & Chris Foreman Organ



Edwidge Danticat, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.

Trio, performing 5:30-7:30p, while every half-hr (6-8p) buses depart o toursto clubs from Buddy Guy's Legends to the Green Dolphin, Cotton Club to HotHouse! (312) 744-1430.
HotHouse celebrates Jazz Fest! (773) 235-2334.

Thursday, Sept. 3

Chicago Jazz Festival legendary Cuban pianist Chucho Valdes plays solo 4:15-6p in FREE official kick-off concert @ Chi Cultural Center's Preston Bradley Hall, 78 E Washington! Then Algiers Brass Band leads New Orleans-style parade to Petrillo Band Shell, joined by Mystick Krewe of LaIf Social Aid & Pleasure Club of Chi. All welcome! Later, Nancy Wilson headlines opening night; Branford Marsalis headlines Fri. Jazz Festival Art Fair near the rose gardens bet Jackson & Buckingham Fountain & food vendors on Jackson Blvd provide added attractions. Thru Sept 6, evening performances @ Petrillo Music shell, Grant Park, afternoons @ Jazz on Jackson Day-Stage (Sat/Sun)-all free! Info (312) 744-3315

Friday, Sept. 4

African Festival of the Arts thru Sept 7, 11a-10p @ DuSable Museum, 740 E 56th Pl. Info (773) 995-7742.
International Jazz Fest in Grant Park's Petrillo Bandshell, thru Sun. Today, 6p The Awakening, 7p Irakere, 8:20p Branford Marsalis Quartet. Thurs-Sun in the Park: Algiers Brass Band (fr New Orleans). Info (312) 744-3370.

Sunday, Sept. 6

Executive Sweet Pat & Vera host "Pre-Labor Day Affair!" w/ DJ Ron Carroll, eateries by Chef Lamont, raffle & good fun! 9p-3a, \$10 cover, ID req. @ Local 705 Auditorium, 330 S Marshfield (@ Va Buren; free pkg). Info (773) 375-7144.
Midwest Womyn's Autumnfest

Ferron, Deidra McCalla, Alice DiMichele, Zoe Lewis, Jamie Anderson (815) 748-5359
International Jazz Fest in Grant Park. Today at Jazz on Jackson stage: 12p Terry Callier & Beyond, 1:05p Jose Valdes' Latin Jazztet, 2:10p NRG Ensemble, 3:25p John Campbell Trio w/ Ed Petersen. At Petrillo Bandshell: 5p Grayza Augustick, 6p Tribute to Sun Ra in Chi w/ Marshall Allen, Julian Priest & Sun Ra Chi Alumni, 7:05p Lou Doakson Quartet, 8:20p Randy Weston's African Sunrise featuring Billy Harper, Claudio Roditi & Chico O'Farrell Orchestra. (312) 744-3370.
Miss Continental Tasha Long crowns her successor! Tonite & Mon @ the Riviera.
WACT Brunch (773) 784-8922.

Tuesday, Sept. 8

DuSable Museum Cinema WEB DuBols: A Biography in Four Voices (773) 947-0600.
Jesse White LGBT Fundraiser The Sec'y of State candidate himself joins 50+ LGBT community leaders at this "United in Victory" campaign benefit. Ann Sather's (312) 258-1998.

Wed., Sept. 9

Chicago's Unity Month Ill Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks. 5:30-7:30p. 750 S Halsted. Reserves req. (312) 744-1814.
GAMBA ("warrior") support group: (773) 752-7867. "Faces on the Screen: Images of Gay Black Men."
Guild Complex "Labor Lit & Music Open Mic" is part of GC's 2nd annual Labor Arts Festival, features Daniel Ferri, Brenda Mathews, Lew Rosenbaum, Michael Watson, & music by Ziffels (773) 296-1108.
Imani Umoja discussion group for gay/bi brothers of color year Sinai Family Health Centers, Grand Blvd. Plaza, 5401 S Wentworth. (773) 907-8993.

Women & Children First Reporter Sara Gogol discusses women's basketball after following ABL start-up season, A Condors player will accompany Gogol! 7:30p. @ 5233 N Clark, (773) 769-9299.

Friday, Sept. 11

Lesbian Community Cancer Project, US Dept of Health & Human Services & other women's health agencies participate in "Creating Healthy Lives: A Conference Dealing with Lesbian Health Issues" at University of Illinois-Chicago, Thru Sat. (773) 561-4662.

Saturday, Sept. 12

Affinity 2nd Sat Youth Group meets. Info (312) 409-7609.
Come Home to Woodlawn fest E 62nd bet Woodlawn & Kimbark Aves. (773) 667-8456
DuSable Museum "Roots & Wings: A Family History Project for Children" (773) 947-0600.
ETA Creative Arts Fndtn "Expanding Our Expectations" Gala '98 will honor Gerakline de Haas, Craig & Alison Hodges, Eric Johnson, Kasi Lemmons, Jon Meyer, Melody Spa Cooper,

Dozell & Alisa Starks, Geo Tillman & Theodore Witcher. 7558 S South Chicago Ave. Tix/info (773) 752-3955.

Sunday, Sept. 13

Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund annual "Ladies at the Links" Golf Outing & Picnic @ South Shore Golf Course (312) 663-4413.
Women & Children First noted lesbian writer/cultural critic Sarah Schulman 5p. @ 5233 N Clark, (773) 769-9299.

Tuesday, Sept. 15

ACGLI (Advisory Council on Gay & Lesbian Issues) & ALMA (Amigas Latinas), et al. host event in honor of Chicago's Hispanic Heritage Month, (312) 744-7911.
Bankers Assoc for Gay & Lesbian Equality sponsors panel discussion on establishing diversity efforts in yr workplace, featuring CHR/ACGLI liaison Mary Morten, 5:30-7p, (312) 630-1367 or (312) 557-1591.
WTTW Channel 11 PBS "POV: Family Name," story of gay filmmaker Macky Alston's far-flung family history as descendant of Alston family slaves. 11p.

Wed., Sept. 16

Chicago's Unity Month "The Chicago Dinners-A Metropolitan Area Celebration" gather people of different racial/ethnic/religious backgrounds for frank conversations about race. @ various locations this evening. Info (312) 742-0212.
HotHouse Leon Parker 8p.
WTTW Channel 11 PBS presents "Modern & Contemporary Art of the Dominican Republic." 7:30p. AND 9p "In Performance at the White House: Savion Glover-Stomp, Slide & Swing," w/ Glover,

Thursday, Sept. 17

Chicago Foundation for Women 13th Annual Luchon & Symposium, features keynote speaker Sheryl Swoopes, Olympic gold medal b-ball player of the WNBA Houston Comets! 8:30a-1:30p, \$50+ rsvp req (you cd sponsor a girl to attend, tool contrbs \$40+ tax-deductible). @ Chicago Hilton & Towers, 720 S Michigan. Reserves/info (312) 266-1176.
CORE Center for the Prevention, Care and Research of Infectious

Theatre

Previews/Opening Nights
Sept 3: Shopping and Fucking Brutal, comic, full of wit. Psychological impact of addiction, compulsion, a generation at risk seeking love, attention. Thru Oct 8 Bailiwick (773) 883-1090
Sept 9: Educating Rita African American adaptation, a dropout overcomes oppression with help of her alter ego, tutor. Tiktmsr (312) 902-1500
Sept 22: Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde Thru Oct 11 Court Theatre (773) 753-4472

Disease Grand Opening!! 11a. @ 2020 W Harrison (@ Damen).
HotHouse 5A Artist Management 2nd Anniv Party, host Mario, featuring poets Reggie Gibson, Quraysh Ali Lansana, 8p, \$7. @ 31 E Balbo, (773) 235-2334.

Friday, Sept. 18

Affinity Poetry rdg @ The Vix ; CC Carter MC; (312) 409-7609
POZ Life Expo! 11a-7p @ Univ of Ill-Chicago. 1-800-875-8770
Star Gaze (Cafe Ashlie) Hot Salsa Fri w/ DJ Sandy. 5419 N Clark. (773) 561-7363.

Saturday, Sept. 19

Affinity 40-Plus women's grp mtg (312) 409-7609.
Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children NYC r&b/blues singer Nedra Johnson; Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 Foster. 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 20

HotHouse "Queer Beat Science" Dance Party is ethnically & 'genderistically' all-inclusive! 10p, **Lesbian Community Cancer Project** annual jazz brunch cruise; RSVP (773) 561-4662.

Thursday, Sept. 24

Women & Children First Edwidge Danticat-youngest author ever nominated for Nat'l Book Awd, reads fr her 2nd novel, *The Farming of Bones*, opening in '37 on Dominican side of Haiti border. Co-sponsored by Chi Public Lib. 7p. @ Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S State. Info (773) 769-9299.

Saturday, Sept. 26

Chicago's Unity Month "The Color Triangle A Yr Later: Models of Success" marks 1st anniv of metro LGBT anti-racism project, featuring panel discussion (incl Joo-Hyun Kag of Audre Lorde Proj/NYC & Martin Orellas-Quintero of LLEGO/DC, Renee McCoy of Detroit, & Chi's own Renee Hanover & David Sinski, co-moderated by Steve Wakefield & Evette Cardona). 11:30a-1:30p, reserves required, rsvp (773) 973-3999. @ DePaul University's Egan Urban Center, 243 S Wabash, 9th fl. Info (312) 744-1814.
GLSEN Chicago & Student Pride Chicago co-host 3rd Youth Leadership Summit (773) 769-9009

Sept 28: A Real Read, 8p, Jazz & Java, 3428 W King Dr. Part of the African American Arts Alliance's Black Arts Week, Sept 27-Oct 5, Real Read, along with Black Ensemble Th, ETA, Chicago Th Co and the Onyx Th are members of the alliance and featured throughout the week. (773) 769-4451

In Performance
Chicago's Golden Soul Black Ensemble Th (773) 769-4451
Wang Dang Doodle (The Life Story of KoKo Taylor—Queen of the Blues) Black Ensemble Th 4520 N Beacon (773) 769-4451

Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays, Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays, Affinity and reps from other groups were among the more than two dozen Black lesbians marching in the annual Bud Billiken Day Parade on the city's South Side. Photos by Israel Wright



RIGHT and BELOW are folks at Phrasority's recent party at Cafe Ashle on North Clark. Photos by Rory Tanksley



Tens of thousands of folks head to Halsted Street each August for the Northalsted Marketdays fair (ABOVE AND BELOW). Photo by Israel Wright



Lambda Reader Survey

\$500 Cash Prize to winner of random drawing

other prizes include restaurant coupons, CDs, hotel stays, and more.

Please complete the following survey and send to Survey, c/o Outlines, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657, FAX (773) 871-7609, by Sept. 20, 1998. All surveys will be entered in our Lambda Publications Survey Raffle, with \$500 top prize drawn Nov. 1, 1998. Call (773) 871-7610. All questions are **OPTIONAL**, but we must have your name (kept confidential) in order to enter your name in the contest.

DEMOGRAPHICS

1. race: ☐ White ☐ Black ☐ Latino/a ☐ Asian
other (please specify): _____
2. Gender: ☐ male ☐ female ☐ transgendered
3. Age: _____
4. sexual orientation: ☐ gay/lesbian ☐ bisexual ☐ heterosexual
5. Relationship status: ☐ single ☐ in a couple
Have you had a "commitment" ceremony/wedding? ☐ yes ☐ no
6. Are you 'out of the closet'?
☐ completely ☐ somewhat ☐ not at all
7. education level completed: ☐ some high school
☐ high school graduate ☐ GED vocational training
☐ some college ☐ associate's degree ☐ college graduate
☐ some graduate courses ☐ professional courses
☐ Master's Degree ☐ PhD/J.D.
8. Do you have any children? ☐ no ☐ yes Number: _____
9. have any grandchildren? ☐ no ☐ yes Number: _____
10. What is the zip code where you live: _____
11. What is the zip code where you work: _____

FINANCE

12. Do you: ☐ own your house ☐ own your condo
☐ rent your house ☐ rent your apartment
13. How often have you moved in the past 5 years:
☐ never ☐ once ☐ twice ☐ three times ☐ four times
14. Are you employed? ☐ yes ☐ no
What type of business: _____
What is your title: _____
15. Are you self-employed? ☐ yes ☐ no
16. Are you retired? ☐ yes ☐ no
17. Are you a full-time student? ☐ yes ☐ no
18. 1997 Household income (before taxes; for all in your household):
☐ \$1,000-\$14,999 ☐ \$15,000-\$19,999 ☐ \$20,000-\$24,999
☐ \$25,000-\$29,999 ☐ \$30,000-\$34,999 ☐ \$35,000-\$39,999
☐ \$40,000-\$49,999 ☐ \$50,000-\$59,999 ☐ \$60,000-\$69,999
☐ \$70,000-\$79,999 ☐ \$80,000-\$89,999 ☐ \$90,000-\$99,999
☐ \$100,000-\$124,999 ☐ \$125,000-\$149,999 ☐ \$150,000 or more

19. Your personal income (before taxes) in 1997:
☐ \$1,000-\$14,999 ☐ \$15,000-\$19,999 ☐ \$20,000-\$24,999
☐ \$25,000-\$29,999 ☐ \$30,000-\$34,999 ☐ \$35,000-\$39,999
☐ \$40,000-\$49,999 ☐ \$50,000-\$59,999 ☐ \$60,000-\$69,999
☐ \$70,000-\$79,999 ☐ \$80,000-\$89,999 ☐ \$90,000-\$99,999
☐ \$100,000-\$124,999 ☐ \$125,000-\$149,999 ☐ \$150,000 or more

20. Please indicate which credit cards you have:
☐ American Express ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover
☐ Bank Affinity Card ☐ Department Store Card
☐ Rainbow Card ☐ Other: _____

21. Please indicate what type of accounts/investments you have:
☐ Checking Account ☐ Savings Account ☐ Money Market
☐ Mutual Funds ☐ Stocks ☐ Bonds ☐ Investment real estate
☐ IRA ☐ 401K Plan ☐ CDs ☐ Own or co-own a business
☐ Other: _____

22. Does anyone in your household have a car? ☐ yes ☐ no
Model/year: _____ ☐ New ☐ Used ☐ Leased
Model/year: _____ ☐ New ☐ Used ☐ Leased
Model/year: _____ ☐ New ☐ Used ☐ Leased

23. Does anyone in your household have a boat? ☐ yes ☐ no

24. Does anyone in your household have an RV? ☐ yes ☐ no

25. Does anyone in your household have a motorcycle? ☐ yes ☐ no

READERSHIP

26. How often do you read OUTLINES? (check which applies)
☐ every week ☐ monthly ☐ occasionally ☐ not at all
Not including yourself, how many other people read your last copy: ☐ one ☐ two ☐ three ☐ four or more
27. How often do you read NIGHTLINES? (check which applies)
☐ every week ☐ monthly ☐ occasionally ☐ not at all
Not including yourself, how many other people read your last copy: ☐ one ☐ two ☐ three ☐ four or more
28. How often do you read BLACKLINES? (check which applies)
☐ every month ☐ occasionally ☐ not at all
Not including yourself, how many other people read your last copy: ☐ one ☐ two ☐ three ☐ four or more
29. How often do you read EN LA VIDA? (check which applies)
☐ every month ☐ occasionally ☐ not at all
Not including yourself, how many other people read your last copy: ☐ one ☐ two ☐ three ☐ four or more
30. How often do you use the OUT! GUIDE? (check which applies)
☐ frequently ☐ occasionally ☐ not at all
Not including yourself, how many other people read your last copy: ☐ one ☐ two ☐ three ☐ four or more
31. What sections do you like the most in Lambda Publications (OUTLINES, NIGHTLINES, BLACKLINES, EN LA VIDA) (check all that apply)
☐ editorials ☐ quotelines ☐ photos ☐ news ☐ features
☐ gossip ☐ international news ☐ dining out ☐ travel
☐ politics ☐ poetry ☐ youth beat ☐ calendar ☐ profiles
☐ music ☐ books ☐ theatre ☐ film ☐ dance ☐ art ☐ cartoons
☐ opinion pieces ☐ World Wide Web/internet ☐ sports
☐ personals ☐ ads/classifieds ☐ ads/display
☐ Other: (list specific columnists if you like): _____

32. What would you like to see more of in Lambda Publications (OUTLINES, NIGHTLINES, BLACKLINES, EN LA VIDA)

33. How likely would you be to use an advertiser's product or service because they advertised in Lambda Publications (OUTLINES, NIGHTLINES, BLACKLINES, EN LA VIDA, OUT! OR CLOUT!)?
☐ Very likely ☐ Somewhat likely ☐ Not very likely ☐ Not at all

34. Do you use coupons for the following
☐ Groceries ☐ Dining out ☐ Entertainment events
☐ General shopping ☐ Other _____

- 35: What is your political affiliation?
☐ Democrat ☐ Republican ☐ Independent
☐ Libertarian ☐ None ☐ Other _____

- 36: Are you registered to vote? ☐ yes ☐ no

- 37: Did you vote in the last presidential election? ☐ yes ☐ no

- 38: Do you belong to an HMO or PPO? ☐ yes ☐ no

- 39: Do you volunteer with a non-profit organization? ☐ yes ☐ no

HOMELIFE

- 40: How do you furnish your home? ☐ Specialty stores
☐ Interior Designer ☐ Home furnishing stores ☐ Antique stores

- 41: What type of art do you have in your home?
☐ Paintings purchased at a gallery ☐ Photos purchased at a gallery
☐ Posters purchased at a gallery ☐ Posters ☐ Photos ☐ Paintings

- 42: Check all which you have in your home?
☐ Couch ☐ Futon ☐ Washer/Dryer ☐ Dishwashing machine

- 43: When doing home renovations, do you do your own work or do you hire someone else?
☐ hire someone else ☐ do it myself ☐ both

- 44: Where do you shop for home renovation supplies?
☐ Ace Hardware ☐ True Value Hardware ☐ Home Depot
☐ Builder's Square ☐ Menard's ☐ Other _____

- 45: How frequently do you make personal long-distance phone calls?
☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month
☐ a few times per year ☐ never

- 46: Who is your long-distance phone carrier? _____

- 47: Check the following which you own:
☐ TV ☐ VCR ☐ Stereo ☐ CD player ☐ Mini-disc player
☐ Cassette player ☐ Laser video disc player
☐ Video camera ☐ 35mm camera ☐ Digital camera
☐ Workout equipment ☐ Bicycle ☐ Cellular Phone
☐ Fax machine ☐ Copy machine

48. Do you have any pets? ☐ no ☐ yes
 Number of dogs: _____ Some purebred: ☐ no ☐ yes
 Number of cats: _____ Some purebred: ☐ no ☐ yes
 Number of birds: _____ Number of fish: _____
 Other: _____

- 49: Where you purchase pet supplies: ☐ pet stores ☐ general store

- 50: How often do you purchase fresh flowers:
☐ at least once a week ☐ monthly ☐ a few times a year ☐ never

COMPUTERS

- 51: Do you own a computer? ☐ yes ☐ no
 What kind: ☐ PC-based ☐ Macintosh
- 52: Are you connected to the internet from work? ☐ yes ☐ no
- 53: Are you connected to the internet from home? ☐ yes ☐ no
 Who is your internet provider: _____
- 54: Have you purchased anything using the internet? ☐ yes ☐ no

CULTURE

55. How many books have you read in the past 12 months?
☐ 30 or more ☐ 20-29 ☐ 15-19 ☐ 10-14 ☐ 5-9 ☐ 1-4 ☐ None

56. If yes, what kind of books do you read? ☐ bestsellers
☐ lesbian-oriented books ☐ mainstream books
☐ Black-oriented books ☐ Latino-oriented books
☐ Women-oriented books ☐ other _____

57. In the past 12 months, check each way you have purchased books:
☐ lesbian or feminist bookstore ☐ independent bookstore
☐ Tower Records & Books ☐ Barnes & Noble ☐ Border's
☐ Crown Books ☐ Internet ☐ other _____

58. Which mainstream publications do you read frequently?
☐ New York Times ☐ Chicago Tribune ☐ Chicago Sun-Times
☐ Washington Post ☐ USA Today ☐ Time ☐ Newsweek ☐ Ms.
☐ Vanity Fair ☐ Details ☐ People ☐ Entertainment Weekly
☐ Other: _____

59. Which lesbian publications do you read frequently?
☐ The Advocate ☐ Out Magazine ☐ Genre ☐ Curve
☐ Girlfriends ☐ POZ ☐ Windy City Times ☐ Gay Chicago ☐ GAB
☐ Other: _____

60. How often do you rent videos?
☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month
☐ a few times per year ☐ never

61. How often do you purchase videos?
☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month
☐ a few times per year ☐ never

62. How often do you buy CDs/tapes/albums?
☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month
☐ a few times per year ☐ never

63. In the past 12 months, check how you have purchased CDs/tapes:
☐ lesbian or feminist bookstore ☐ independent record store
☐ Tower Records & Books ☐ Barnes & Noble ☐ Border's
☐ Internet ☐ other _____

64. What is your favorite type(s) of music?
☐ urban contemporary ☐ R&B ☐ women's music ☐ rap
☐ reggae ☐ hip hop ☐ pop ☐ dance ☐ blues ☐ ska
☐ rock ☐ alternative rock ☐ jazz ☐ classical music
☐ techno ☐ other _____

- 65: How often do you go to bars/clubs? ☐ once a week or more
☐ at least once a month ☐ a few times per year ☐ never

66. List your favorite places/clubs to hang out:
 Lesbian/trans: _____

Mainstream: _____

- 67: How often do you go to the cinema? ☐ once a week or more
☐ at least once a month ☐ a few times per year ☐ never

68. What are your favorite movie theatres: ☐ Water Tower Theatres
☐ Music Box ☐ Webster Place ☐ Fine Arts ☐ Piper's Alley
☐ Other: _____

- 69: Have you attended the Ravinia Festival in the past two years?
☐ yes ☐ no

- 70: How often do you go to live theatre? ☐ once a week or more
☐ at least once a month ☐ a few times per year ☐ never

71: Name your top five theatre companies (in Chicago):

72: How often do you attend the following:

- a. **Pop Music Concerts:** ☐ once a week or more
☐ at least once a month ☐ a few times per year ☐ never
- b. **Classical Music Concerts:** ☐ once a week or more
☐ at least once a month ☐ a few times per year ☐ never
- c. **Choral Music Concerts:** ☐ once a week or more
☐ at least once a month ☐ a few times per year ☐ never
- d. **An Opera:** ☐ once a week or more
☐ at least once a month ☐ a few times per year ☐ never
- e. **Dance performances:** ☐ once a week or more
☐ at least once a month ☐ a few times per year ☐ never
- f. **Poetry readings:** ☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month
☐ a few times per year ☐ never
- g. **Literary readings:** ☐ once a week or more
☐ at least once a month ☐ a few times per year ☐ never
- h. **Performance art:** ☐ once a week or more
☐ at least once a month ☐ a few times per year ☐ never
- i. **Comedy shows:** ☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month
☐ a few times per year ☐ never
- j. **Art galleries:** ☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month
☐ a few times per year ☐ never
- k. **Non-art museum:** ☐ once a week or more
☐ at least once a month ☐ a few times per year ☐ never

73: How often do you listen to radio? ☐ once a day or more
☐ at least once a week ☐ at least once a month ☐ never

74: What are your favorite radio stations? _____

75: Who are your favorite radio DJs? _____

76: How often do you watch TV each week? ☐ 20 hours or more
☐ 10-19 hours ☐ 5-9 hours ☐ 1-4 hours ☐ never

77: What are your favorite TV shows? _____

78: What are your favorite TV networks (including cable)? _____

79: Check which you have: ☐ basic cable TV ☐ movies on cable
☐ direct TV ☐ digital cable

TRAVEL & LEISURE

80: How often do you travel out of town for pleasure?

- ☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month
☐ a few times per year ☐ never

Favorite destinations: _____

81: Check which places you have travelled in the last 5 years:

- ☐ Key West ☐ Provincetown ☐ New York ☐ Palm Springs
☐ Los Angeles ☐ San Francisco ☐ Seattle ☐ New Mexico ☐ Miami
☐ Michigan ☐ Wisconsin ☐ Indiana ☐ Downstate Illinois
☐ Canada ☐ Mexico ☐ England ☐ Caribbean

Other: _____

82: How often do you travel out of town for business?

- ☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month
☐ a few times per year ☐ never

83: When travelling for pleasure or business, what are your favorite airline(s) to use? ☐ American ☐ United ☐ Northwest ☐ TWA
☐ Southwest ☐ United Continental ☐ Frontier ☐ Kiwi ☐ Virgin
☐ U.S. Air ☐ Other: _____

84: Do you own a vacation house/condo? ☐ yes ☐ no

85: In the last 12 months have you stayed in:

a. A hotel: ☐ yes ☐ no

Which hotels: _____

b. A motel: ☐ yes ☐ no

Which motels: _____

c. A bed & breakfast: ☐ yes ☐ no

Which state: _____

86: In the last 12 months have you rented a car? ☐ yes ☐ no

87: In the last 3 years have you gone on a cruise? ☐ yes ☐ no

88: In the last 5 years have you gone to Disney World? ☐ yes ☐ no

89: Do you belong to a healthclub? ☐ yes ☐ no

Which club(s): _____

90: Have you ever called a 900-number to meet people? ☐ yes ☐ no

91: Have you ever placed or responded to a personal advertisement to meet people? ☐ yes ☐ no

92: Have you ever used a dating service? ☐ yes ☐ no

93: List all that you participate in:

- ☐ Running ☐ Walking ☐ Hiking ☐ Bicycling ☐ Swimming
☐ Skiing ☐ Boating ☐ Aerobics ☐ Tennis ☐ Softball
☐ Volleyball ☐ Basketball ☐ Football ☐ Soccer ☐ Golf
☐ Rollerblading ☐ Fishing ☐ Billiards ☐ Weight lifting
☐ Gardening ☐ Writing ☐ Antiquing ☐ Cooking

☐ Other: _____

94: In the past 2 years have you attended:

- ☐ A gay/lesbian sports events ☐ A mainstream sports event
☐ A Chicago Cubs or White Sox Game ☐ A Bulls basketball game
☐ A Chicago Bears Game ☐ A women's college basketball game

95: How often do you go clothes shopping?

- ☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month
☐ a few times per year ☐ never

Name your favorite brands: _____

96: How often do you shop for shoes?

- ☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month
☐ a few times per year ☐ never

Name your favorite brands: _____

97: Check off any of the following which you have shopped at (for any supplies) in the past 12 months:

- ☐ Marshall Field's ☐ J.C. Penny ☐ Gap ☐ Old Navy
☐ Bigsby & Kruthers ☐ Carson Pirie Scott ☐ Structure
☐ Bloomingdale's ☐ Saks Fifth Avenue ☐ Lord & Taylor
☐ Montgomery Ward ☐ Sears ☐ Sam's Warehouse
☐ Target ☐ K-Mart ☐ Wal-Mart ☐ Used clothing/resale shops

DRINKING & DINING

98: How frequently do you have mixed drinks?

☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month

☐ a few times per year ☐ never

What are your favorite brands of liquor: _____

99: How frequently do you have wine?

☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month

☐ a few times per year ☐ never

What are your favorite brands: _____

100: How frequently do you have beer?

☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month

☐ a few times per year ☐ never

What are your favorite brands: _____

101: Do you smoke cigarettes? ☐ yes ☐ no

What are your favorite brands: _____

102: Do you smoke cigars? ☐ yes ☐ no

What are your favorite brands: _____

103: How frequently do you have sparkling water, seltzers?

☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month

☐ a few times per year ☐ never

What are your favorite brands: _____

104: How frequently do you have non-carbonated spring water?

☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month

☐ a few times per year ☐ never

What are your favorite brands: _____

105: How frequently do you have soft drinks/juices?

☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month

☐ a few times per year ☐ never

What are your favorite brands: _____

106: How frequently do you dine out at the following:

a. WHITE TABLE CLOTH RESTAURANT:

☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month

☐ a few times per year ☐ never

b. CASUAL RESTAURANT:

☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month

☐ a few times per year ☐ never

c. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT:

☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month

☐ a few times per year ☐ never

107: How frequently do you dine out for breakfast:

☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month

☐ a few times per year ☐ never

108: How frequently do you dine out for lunch:

☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month

☐ a few times per year ☐ never

109: How frequently do you dine out for dinner:

☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month

☐ a few times per year ☐ never

110: How frequently do you go out for coffee:

☐ once a day or more ☐ once a week or more

☐ at least once a month ☐ a few times per year ☐ never

What are your favorite coffee shops: _____

111: How frequently do you go out for dessert:

☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month

☐ a few times per year ☐ never

112: How often do you have food delivered to your home:

☐ three or more times per week ☐ once week

☐ a few times per month ☐ once a month

☐ a few times per year ☐ never

113: How often do you cook for guests in your home:

☐ once a week or more ☐ at least once a month

☐ a few times per year ☐ never

114: What are your favorite types of cuisine?

☐ Pizza ☐ Italian (not pizza) ☐ Greek

☐ Chinese ☐ Thai ☐ Japanese ☐ Mexican ☐ Swedish

☐ French ☐ English ☐ American ☐ German

Other: _____

115: What are your favorite restaurants (by name): _____

116: When shopping for home, where do you purchase your food:

☐ Supermarket ☐ Warehouse clubs ☐ Quick-marts (7-11, etc.)

☐ Specialty stores ☐ Ethnic specialty stores ☐ Gourmet stores

117: Check off any of the following which you have shopped at in the past 12 months:

☐ Whole Foods ☐ Dominicks ☐ Jewel ☐ Treasure Island

☐ 7-11 ☐ White Hen Pantry ☐ Cub Foods ☐ Health Food store

118: Check off any of the following which you have shopped at (for any supplies) in the past 12 months:

☐ Gurnee Mills Shopping Mall ☐ Woodfield Shopping Mall

☐ Oak Brook Shopping Mall ☐ Century Mall ☐ Water Tower Place

☐ 900 North Michigan ☐ Old Orchard Mall ☐ Other Malls

MAKE SURE WE HAVE THIS INFO TO ENTER YOU FOR THE \$500 CASH DRAWING:

To qualify for the cash prize, please include the following information (used to identify and notify the winner). You can still complete the survey without giving us your name.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home telephone _____

E-mail: _____

Please mail surveys to Lambda Publications, 1115 West Belmont, Suite 2-D Chicago, IL, 60657; or via fax at (773) 871-7609.

DEADLINE: SEPT. 20, 1998. Winners drawn Nov. 1, 1998.

The results of this survey will be compiled by an independent Chicago-based company.



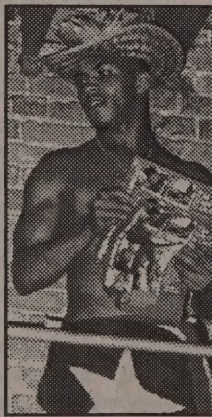
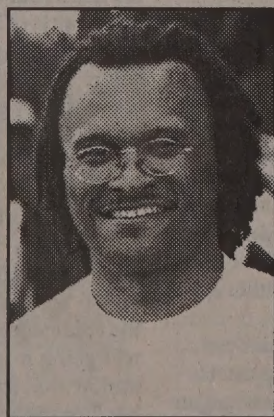
"Remember When, Back In the Day," which hosts parties for Black lesbians around the country, had a pride month party in Chicago. The weekend of events included



an awards dinner/dance. The following were honored: Affinity, Karen Beathea of Takara Jewelry (used on 'All My Children' and sold at Sears stores nationwide); LaJaunessee Jordan (of BLACKLINES), Pat McCombs, Faye Dunmars (from Faye and Friends), and Greater Chicago Committee. Photos by LaJ and Chris Smith. TOP, LEFT: Ebony and Sheila. MIDDLE: Gaylon Roberson and LaJaunessee. RIGHT: Ray, Chef Tania and Pat McCombs. BELOW, LEFT: Davvy, Inca and Roz. NEXT: Rosemary and Priscilla. NEXT: Sandy and Mickey. RIGHT: Susan and Maria.



These pics are from the Greater Chicago Committee's annual Black Black Party for Pride. Photos by Israel Wright. FROM LEFT: Jason Crum; Tanya and friends; Cliff and Fred.



The Rails group sponsored a weekend of parties in Chicago, coinciding with Independence Weekend. Photos by Israel Wright. FORM LEFT: Rashad Burgess at the Irving Park picnic; Sam at the picnic; Tiger Tyson at Club Voyage; Steve Clay (center) with out-of-town guests.

Testifying: An Interview with Singer Nedra Johnson

by **Jorjet Harper**

When I first saw Nedra Johnson perform several years ago, I knew I was witnessing something rare: the emergence of a new, genuinely super- talented musical artist. Now 32, this lesbian singer/songwriter/musician has released her long-awaited first CD, *Testify*.

Nedra performs Saturday, Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m. at Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children, 1650 W. Foster. Chicago lesbian writer/performer C.C. Carter opens for Nedra with her new piece, *On Her Own*.

Nedra has a sometimes raucous, sometimes haunting, always powerful voice. Her lyrics are often pointedly gay. Some of her songs incorporate traditional gospel imagery in gay-positive terms, in a way that is refreshingly original and unique. The poet and novelist Sapphire has said, "I can safely remove the adjective 'one of' and say that Nedra is simply the best new artist I have heard this year," and THE VILLAGE VOICE has called her "charming and irrepressibly sexy." Her father, Howard Johnson, is a long-time professional jazz musician, and Nedra recently toured Europe and performed at the Hollywood Bowl with his band, Gravity. She is gaining recognition in New York, too, and often performs there with her own band—including a recent gig opening for Bo Diddley at the Bottom Line.

JH: When did you begin to write songs and play?

NJ: I started writing poetry of sorts when I was 14. I grew up around music and I have always had an ear for remembering lyrics and melodies. Probably most people think it is my father that my music comes from, but actually it's both my mother and father. My mom is a really good songwriter. It's not what she does for a living, but I bet she could. So I think if it's possible that musical ability is at all in the genes, I had it coming from both sides. I grew up mostly in California. We moved a bit in the earlier years, but from 10 to 18, I grew up and went to school in Santa Monica. I have a brother, David; he is also very musical. Plays keyboards and writes music that is basically like movie scores. When we were kids it was not cool to have a big brother who sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" while riding on the swings. He's just lucky he had a butchy little sister



Nedra Johnson, performing Sept. 19 at Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children.

who would have killed anyone who put their hands on him.

As far as playing goes, I started playing alto sax at about 10, baritone sax at 12, then bass at 14, tuba at 15, and guitar just in the last few years.

JH: And how would you describe your music?

NJ: I generally describe my music as Blues-based R'n'B. Sometimes it's funky, sometimes on the more folkie ballad side, maybe a little Rock'n'Roll in there, too. Whatever it ends up, I think it all starts with the Blues. I'm really looking forward to performing in Chicago again. I got to see Koko Taylor last time I was there, which was—I mean, I need the Blues so much, so you know to be in Chicago is like bathing in the Jordan River. It's like what some people might imagine going to Lesbos would be.

JH: Your new CD, *Testify*, is great.

NJ: It was recorded over a period of years, as I got the money together. It was a long time in the making, and I am very happy with and proud of the end product, though I hope the next time I record I have a real budget so I can do it all within a few months, if not faster.

JH: What else did you do besides performing while you were working on it?

NJ: The last seven years I worked organic produce in health food stores as a buyer and a manager as well as stock. I'm hoping that the CD will do well enough that I

can pay everyone who played on it. I can't say enough how special it is to me that people would play without financial compensation and make the album possible. The songs were recorded one at a time. The last four songs were done closest together, in the fall of last year.

JH: Most of the songs lyrics on *Testify* are your own, but on a few, you have very effectively used the writings of Black women writers, like Ntozake Shange, Audre Lorde, and Pat Parker. How did you select which writers' words to use?

NJ: I don't ever choose to write by saying "I'd like to use So-and-so's writing." Each work I use was inspired by the work itself. I was studying with Ntozake at the New York Feminist Art Institute, and I heard her read "Get It and Feel Good" and I thought, "that poem is so fierce it should be a song." Then years later, I was playing a bass line and I thought of that poem and it all basically fell into place. That was a very magical thing for me. And you know I was afraid: "What if 'zake doesn't like it?" She is very musical herself. Her response to it was a very big compliment. And even Sapphire said to me that it was the best adaptation of a poem she had ever heard, and I really feel good about that.

I have been more influenced by writers—poets mostly—than musicians. The first song I wrote with that kind of inspiration was "Where Will You Be?" Pat Parker's poem is so straightforward and to the point that I find my song a bit ambiguous and very pale when compared to the original. That's why I always tell people to seek out her work for themselves. And Audre Lorde—I cannot say enough about her work. There is that poem in the book *Afrikete*—and I can't recall the writer's name, but she says about Audre: "I have known a woman who was a movement in my life." And I think that is the best description of Audre's work on me. I really regret not having sent her a recording before she passed. But I did get to tell her about the song at the I Am Your Sister Conference in Boston, and I get chills when I think about it, really, because what she said to me was, "I'm glad you are using my work." I have a vision of her sometimes laying out poems to make a path to the mountain top—I see her there on top with her arms open wide like on the conference poster. And when I knew I was going to talk to her, I thought for a minute that somehow it was all easier for her, like she walked on water or something. But when I sat with her and looked into her eyes and watched her with other people—her humanity, her humanness,

was so clearly visible I just thought to myself, "You got a lot of work to do."

JH: Many of your songs reflect the sentiment, "How dare you try to take my God from me just because I'm a lesbian." Can you talk about that? And what are your thoughts on the Exodus anti-gay promo campaign that's been going on?

NJ: I don't really think of it as "how dare you..." I don't write songs for people who think they know God doesn't love me as I am. I write songs with Christian overtones because, for one, I do believe in God, though I do not limit God to what Christians tend to think about God. And also, because it is Christian politics that creates the negative ideas and, deeper still, LAWS about the way I love. And I think and feel that is outrageous. In the name of God they project all their fears onto other people. No one has done more damage to the world and to the hearts of individuals than so-called Christians. Now, some people might find that offensive, but as I have studied more and more about the development of the church—you know because the Bible says to go out spread the word, you have people motivated not by their love of God and the word but motivated by their fear of not doing what the Bible says. You have people who stand out on street corners on Gay Pride with big elaborate signs that are full of color, fire and brimstone, and they say things like "Repent or Hell." And I always wonder: if they are so happy and are all about the love of God, why don't they carry signs that are blue skies and doves that say "Repent and Heaven"? Because they are not spreading the love of God; they are spreading their fears. My thoughts on the Exodus movement is that it is not so big as they like to put out. They prey on people who are already troubled because of being raised in this same kind of hypocritical Christian background.

JH: You've performed at the Hollywood Bowl, you've opened for Bo Diddley in New York, and you've sung with Taj Mahal. Can you describe those experiences? Did you sing out-gay material?

NJ: Opening for Bo Diddley is the most mainstream gig I have done with my own band, and it was cool. I got good response from the crowd. It was a little scary at first because I just looked out and saw what I imagine were about 500 twenty-year-old Long Island white boys. I just thought, "I am not what they are expecting..." and it made me realize how queer I am. Every song I would go to start, my head would say "damn, that's queer too." But I did get an encore, and afterwards I had a big bear

of a guy come up to me, and he looked like someone I would have nothing in common with, and he said he really loved it, and he bought the record and could he have a hug? That was the last thing I would have thought he'd say.

My dad's band is Howard Johnson and Gravity. On the latest album, *Right Now*, Taj Mahal sings three songs. So when touring, I started covering not only for Bob Stewart on tuba but for Taj on vocals. And we did a gig at St. Ann's in Brooklyn and Taj played guitar on "Working Hard for the Joneses." That was amazing for

'I write songs with Christian overtones because, for one, I do believe in God, though I do not limit God to what Christians tend to think about God.' — Nedra

me: I finish my verse and go "Taj Mahal..." That was like a fantasy! And really, playing and singing with Gravity is always like living a fantasy for me because I grew up with Taj Mahal's album *The Real Thing* as a staple.

I do a song with Gravity called "The World Could Stop Turning" that is so sexual. And the fact that I am gay is not even what people trip on. There is a poem/rap wherein I am saying stuff like "I'm gonna fill up empty places inside of you that haven't even been named—fill you up until you spill over me in a blue-white wave of wet and wanting..." So yeah, I'm out in Gravity. And people either love it or are shocked, but I don't notice so much that people are tripping. And my feeling on it was that, you know, if my father isn't trippin' I don't care what anyone else thinks. Most people just think it's hot. The Playboy Jazz Festival got us, Gravity and me, a very good mention in *VARIETY*: "A big booming blues vocal"—something like that, anyway.

JH: Can you talk a bit about how you feel about the difference between writing songs and performing them?

NJ: They seem fairly inseparable on some level. But I would say that some songs are scary to write and then easy to perform, and vice versa. Like "Are You G.A.Y.?" was very painful to write because I was afraid of the anger being too powerful. ... But I think just trusting and going forward with it anyway, it came out very clear, and so it is very powerful to perform and not at all out of control.

JH: You've performed at the Michigan

festival. What observations do you have about where women's music is going?

NJ: I love Michigan. It was my first women's music festival. I have always romanticized it, and I think of it as a very magical place. As an out lesbian it may be the place I get to play where I feel most valued and really heard. It is the place that made me know there was a place for me, for my music, which at the time was nowhere near developed—it was basically theoretical. ... I don't know about the future of women's music. ... I never set out to make music that only women-loving-women would like. ... What I think is important is to consider, when we talk about it, if we mean that it is lesbian music only or not. Is it feminist? What is it? As it becomes easier to be a lesbian ... it seems that women are less interested in living on the fringe. They want to fit in. They want to go buy the CDs they listen to at Tower and they want to be/do things "normal." And many don't even know about a women's music, and when you try to turn them on to it, well, it is not as produced as they would like. ... I don't expect anyone to buy my record because I'm gay or even because I think it's good. I hope people buy it.

JH: Your onstage image has undergone a rather striking evolution—you dress much butchier than you used to, and have your hair cut short.

NJ: Well, I'd say the biggest change is that I cut my locs. So what I have hair-style-wise is basically what I had before I started growing them. As far as having a butchier style, I'd say it's no butchier than I would ever have hoped for. I'm just a little better at it now. And a little more into being butch not just by default. I have always identified as butch when pushed to do so, but I used to be a little more invested in ambiguity than I am now. As I have gotten older and learned more about myself and my desire, I have come to embrace definition. I used to think, "What does it matter if someone is butch or femme?" But then I see that I have always gotten just a little stupid in the presence of femmes. You know—all twitterpated and what not. There was a time when I thought that I could not have a healthy relationship with someone who made me feel that way, that I'd be too ... I don't know, goofy or something, to make sure I was getting my own needs met. But I have to say that I really enjoy and appreciate the magic of femmes. I love that giddy feeling. I love that my girlfriend can look at me and make me melt. I love it.

Nedra's website is <http://>

Underground Techniques

DJ Harry Tyner, Jr.

The Billboard Music conference was here and what a great feeling it was to see and meet some great talent. The evening featured new artists, Kim Castel and Kelly Price and familiar faces of the music scene, Kim English and Donna Blakely. Which leads me right into the new release of Ms. English's new CD, *Higher Things*, out on Nervous records. It's full of great dance tracks which showcases her voice beautifully, along with great remix and production work by Masters at Work, Frankie Feliciano and Maurice Joshua. Highlights on the album include "Unspeakable Joy," "Nite Life," and club classic, "Supernatural." I wasn't quite impressed with her cover of Anita Baker's "Been So Long." The effort is nice, but Anita's voice soothes me. Nevertheless, this should not be missed.

Donna Blakely returns along with Ralphie Rosario with the release of *Do You Like The Way That It Feels*, out on UC Music, featuring remixes by Angel Moraes and Chicago's own DJ Lego. Also released is a remix collection of blue-eyed soul singer, Lisa Stansfield. Limited vinyl copies are available. By this time of writing, Twisted records would have released the second single from Danny Tenaglia's *Tourism* CD. "Music Is The Answer," which features the vocals of Chicago artist, Celeda. The remixes to be served up nicely by Danny himself and Club 69. Speaking of Twisted, Eric Kupper will be releasing a part two to his "K-Scope" series. Already out is the first K-scope e.p.

DJ Harry T's Underground Top 5

1. Movin' On — Prospect Park Feat. Carolyn Harding
2. Mas Que Mancada — Ronaldo's Revenge
3. Tribus Cantare — The Ambassadors
4. Kong — Sticky People
5. Mongoboinx — Harry 'Choo-Choo' Romero

Up on It

music reviews by J.

Brandy — *Never Say Never* (Atlantic)
vs. Monica — *The Boy Is Mine* (Arista)

As soon as the duet "The Boy Is Mine" debuted, rumors of a rivalry between teen R&B darlings Brandy & Monica began to surface. (Was it originally supposed to be Monica's song? Were they actually fighting over a man? Did Brandy really have a problem with Monica's liberal use of vocal runs? And how pissed was Monica when she saw Brandy performing the song on a talk show without her?) Whatever the facts, both artists have ridden the "Boy" controversy to No. 1, in anticipation of their respective sophomore releases. Brandy got an earlier start (over a month) and benefits from a more secure marketing strategy (she has her own TV show, for gosh sakes). Her CD has proven a success (thanks, in part, to the hot single "Top Of The World"). In comparison, while Monica is enjoying airplay with her follow-up single, "The First Night," the Jermaine Dupri reworking of Diana Ross' "Love Hangover," is one of the CD's few highlights.

Brandy begins with an intro to "Never Say Never," a frenetic, boom-clack track, before slipping easily into "Angel in Disguise" (featuring Joe). While "The Boy Is Mine" is the second song on each mini diva's album, the song's style fits better on *Never Say Never* (possibly, because Brandy co-wrote it). *Never Say Never* rides the mid-tempo rhythm throughout most of the CD with consistent, infectious results, thanks to stylized production by Darkchild (who periodically recall Timbaland and Missy Elliott). Throughout *Never*, Brandy preserves her good girl image, barely eluding to physical intimacy ("Cause in you sleep you called her name"). Seventeen-year-old Monica, on the other hand, boldly proclaims that she doesn't "get down" on the first night (perhaps the second?). But what hurts Monica's release most is the hodgepodge, track selections (regardless of the fact that Dallas Austin produced the majority of the album). For instance, the heart-felt blues of "Misty Blues" follows bumpin' hit "The First Night". Sure, Monica handles the material admirably, but the dramatic shift in mood is jolting.

In contrast, *Never Say Never* revels in the similarity of its tracks ("Learn The Hard Way" slams into the bittersweet "Almost Doesn't Count," where Brandy ends with "So maybe I'll be here/Maybe I'll see you around"). But Brandy falters with her underdeveloped ballads, mostly produced by David Foster (who also contributes lukewarm ballads on Monica's album).

While Monica's voice is arguably stronger than Brandy's husky whisper (her voice cracks on the spoken intro to "Angel in Disguise"), her material is poorly developed. The rivalry may be fabricated, but the clear winner in this battle is Brandy.

Karen Ramirez — *Distant Dreams* (Manifesto)

The fact that Karen Ramirez didn't build on her club hit "Trouble Girl" is a testament to her thoughtful approach to music (a mellow, samba-infused version of "Trouble Girl" appears on *Distant Dreams*). More than a club album, *Dreams* is an arresting collection of downtempo, trip hop and drum 'n' bass tracks. Karen's vocal delivery is subdued, floating over the delicate arrangements and clunky beats. Lyrically, she approaches varied material. "Here she comes/The new girl/She comes to our perfect world/Wait and see/If she's different," she begins on the haunting, atmospheric "Maker Shaker." The song ends with "Reform, conform/Join us, crown us/Bend before us/We'll help to change your nature."

Overall, even when the beats per minute climb, each track creates a calming effect. Indicative of the CD's mood is "Stormy Day" and Ramirez's version of "People Make The World Go Round." Elements of jazz transform the otherwise straightforward "If We Try," into a refreshing song. Other engaging tunes include "New Reality" and the competent cover of Everything But The Girl's "I Found You." Classify this as a refined Nicolette. Well ... maybe not.

Yes, Michigan!

by LaJaunessee Jordan

The 23rd Michigan Womyn's Music Festival has come and gone and only the memories linger. Several top-of-the-line acts entertained some 6,300 women near Hart, Mich.

The most talked about were Pulitzer Prize-winner Alice Walker (*The Color Purple*, *Possessing the Secret of Joy*) and Grammy Award-winners Sweet Honey in the Rock. Walker, who is creating awareness about, and attempting to end, female genital mutilation, read from her works and talked to the audience about women calling women "guys," saying that we look a lot of different ways but we are still women, about the use of the word "nigger" by Blacks, and several other topics. Walker read from *By the Light of My Father's Smile*, which will be published this fall. She read long passages of greatly detailed passion between two women. And in her sweet, soft-spoken voice, she said, "There's a whole lot of fucking in this book."

Sweet Honey in the Rock is a Black a cappella ensemble group. They use their powerful voices and hand percussion instruments and blend jazz, blues and spirituals. Sweet Honey graced the audience with three encores as thousands of



FROM LEFT: Chicagoan Pat McCombs, coordinator of the Women of Color tent. Poet Ella Smith of New York. Author/editor Lisa Moore. Photos by LaJ



women stood applauding, cheering and hoping for a fourth.

Drummer/vocalist Ubaka Hill and her ShapeShifters (drummers, guitarist and background singers) were a hit Saturday on the Day Stage. And then Sunday on the Acoustic Stage, Hill and her Drum-song Orchestra were praised often. Many wondered aloud why Ubaka has not made it to Night Stage. Long-time favorites Ferron and the Indigo Girls lived up to the audience's high expectations.

Toward the end of Toshi Reagon's performance, there was a sudden and massive downpour. Many thought Ferron would be rescheduled. But the women picked things up, dried them off and

started the show again. Die-hard Ferron fans either waited the rain out as they crawled under tarps or they took cover and returned for Ferron. Toshi Reagon (with background vocalist/guitarist Judith Casselberry, of Casselberry and DuPree) rocked the stage with her combination of R&B and Rock and Roll. She thanked her mom (Bernice Johnson Reagon of Sweet Honey) for her support.

The Mountain Moving Coffeehouse September main attraction will be Nedra Johnson, who performed at the 1996 MNWMF and was warmly welcomed back this year. Chicago poet C.C. Carter will be the opening act for Nedra Johnson at MMCH Sat., Sept. 19.

Plans for Jazz museum get big boost

Efforts to build a national Jazz Museum received an important boost recently. The Jazz Museum acquired its first corporate gift from Lalique, an international firm known for its objets d'art. A vase titled *Jazzy* from the company's spring 1998 collection was donated to the Jazz Museum. Lalique's North American president, Yves Coleon, presented the vase to Ramsey Lewis, a board member of the new Jazz Museum, and Geraldine de Haas, President of the Museum's Board of Trustees at a lavish benefit recently held at the South Shore Cultural Center. The Jazz Museum will be the first of its kind in the world. "We had a dream to revitalize jazz on Chicago's South Side. Out of that dream came the desire to build an important and significant house for jazz, not only for Chicago but also for the world. The building as designed, and with plans to be located on the western gateway of the Museum Campus will be a living and breathing museum," said Geraldine de Haas in a press release. The museum will cost an estimated \$30 million to build. The gala benefit featured a performance by Orbert Davis with Strings Attached. Openly gay classical cellist Ed Moore (who was profiled in a January 1997 BLACKLINES cover story) was a member of the string ensemble.



Sunra's side players at the Chicago Jazz Fest, 1985.

Photo by Patrick A. Robinson

—Robert Schultz

Robinson Jazz pics at Jazz record mart

Photographer and BLACKLINES contributor Patrick A. Robinson's photographs of jazz artists will be featured at a photo exhibit at the Jazz Record Mart, 444 N. Wabash. The exhibit's

opening will coincide with the annual Jazz Fest at Grant Park. The photos will be on display through Nov. 17.

Artists such as Dizzy Gillespie, Cassandra Wilson, and Branford Marsalis are depicted in performance and candid settings.

In the early 1980s while in the Navy Robinson was aboard the same ship as his brother. It was during this time that his brother introduced him to jazz. Robinson

appreciates the history he is documenting.

"Dizzy was really cool and open," recalled Robinson. Pat has been pursuing photography since junior high. Robinson, who lives in Milwaukee, shared some stories of his time spent with his subjects. He once accompanied Branford Marsalis to the 'hood so Branford could get a hair cut. Robinson also shoots other types of entertainers and is a freelance journalistic photographer.

—Robert Schultz

Is the Black LesBiGayTrans Community Ready for the Millennium?

by Sherri Jackson

I am not the spokesperson for the Bblack community or the gay Black community! I hope I am part of the solution in making a better way for those communities.

"We are the Children of those who chose to survive" — Nana Poussaintin, "Daughters of the Dust." There has been controversy lately over cancellation of shows that have a gay theme, or music by Angie and Debbie Winans titled "Natural" or the right-wing conservatives who use the Bible at any chance to gay-bash us. A Black, Lesbian sister like myself is not about to denounce her lifestyle or go back into the closet due to homo hatred. It took many years to come out of the closet, and it continues to be a process every day with all of this '90s controversy.

I bring these comments to light due to a conversation while having dinner with friends. The conversation began with a woman friend saying the Black community no longer had leadership to represent us. "We have not had real leadership since the '60s" in the Black community! She said the leaders at present are very CHARISMATIC, but not really organizers, willing to put their ass on the line for the cause. She asked, "Where are those people?" Another voice said that the leaders now are too self-centered, too many egos, and always crying the blues. I sat quietly and observed. I figured this was a learning experience, and we were only voicing our opinions. So what if I did not speak of all the things in the Black and gay Black communities we had achieved to make a difference. It will all come to light in time, I thought.

Another voice spoke whom I

admire very much. Actually, I think she would be a hell of an activist herself because it is truly deep in her heart to fight oppression. Black folks are REACTIVE people. PRO-ACTIVE we are not; it's part of our history. The next day I could not get that comment out of my mind: reactive and proactive. I thought of my own work in the community. Was I more reactive than proactive? Maybe my friend is right: Stripped of our history, culture, language, and forced to join a land to become a part of the capitalist society we now live in. I guess that is where all the internalized racism in the Black community comes from. But, how long are we to blame history? I realize racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia still exist, but we have come a long way, and we still have a longer road to travel.

Reflecting, sometimes I am the only person of color at a table, or I already have an idea which folks of color will be at an event. Their faces, like myself, working hard to form collaborative efforts with others in the LBGT community. This hopefully makes a better way for the future, especially our young adults. Of course, they have events costing \$200 or more, so I am weeded out along with other folks of color and women who make less than men. Maybe I am being paranoid as a Black lesbian. I also realize people of color have many causes to battle, confront, and overcome—or so we think! As a woman of color I am taught to save the world and everyone else but me. Oh yeah—I am second in line.

So I ask, are we, the Black LBGT community, ready for the Millennium? Maybe we will continue to bring up causes and create organizations to address them; however, most of us take very little time to look at ourselves. Throughout history we have been dealing with many physical and spiritual forces that have drained us. So, we continue to fight the causes when we ourselves are drained.

We take our drained, tired forces and energy to the tables we serve on. We put blame on each other and/or other organizations. We find a cause to take control of, or work on a group to join taking that unbalanced energy with us. I am at fault also before my phone starts to ring. Are we, the Black LBGT community ready for the MILLENNIUM? Ask yourself are we providing leadership for our young? Are we letting them provide leadership for us? Are we planning for our elder LBGT years? Will all of this high technology weed us even more out of society, and are we making provisions to catch up?

Maybe as I get older and am working out in the LBGT community, I'll have to ask myself those very questions. Are we building the bridges with other folks of color? Are the allies really trying to build bridges with us? Are we really coalition building? A coalition is a group of individuals or organizations cooperating to develop effective strategies for accomplishing a mutual goal. Now, that is the kind of group I wish to work on projects with. Coalition building brings unity, power, resources and, hopefully, we all achieve a mutual goal.

As Dr. Marjorie Hill of New York once quoted while speaking in Chicago, "No one can say it or tell it like you." Wherever you are and whatever group you choose to be a part of as a LBGT, or man, woman or disabled, let your story be heard! I am not the spokesperson for the Black or LBGT community. We all have a role to play. Community work is a two-way street. The community activists need you, the community, and the community needs those people as well. So are we the Black LBGT community ready for the MILLENNIUM? Community work is sometimes a very thankless job, but a rewarding job without pay. Thanks are given when you see the work accomplished when we all work together. If you have to ask

yourself who or worry about who is controlling who or what, maybe we still have a lot of work to do toward the next century. I am going to stop, look at me, and ask myself "Why can't we all just get along?" Thanks to my lady friends for dinner and much words of wisdom. That is what drives me and others to continue the work we do. And thanks, of course, to the folks who fight the media, and the gay press that lets our voice be heard when others would slam the door in our faces.

Happiness. Happiness? Happiness!

by Lawrence Moore

Occasionally you may get this question from a concerned parent, ex-lover, friend or passing acquaintance: "Are you happy?"

If you are asked this question in the midst of being showered with hugs, kisses, and birthday presents, the answer is usually "YES." However, after 48 hours have passed your boss has yelled at you for being late and incompetent and you discover that your lover has been having anonymous sex on your best sheets and has not been using a condom, the answer to the question may be in the negative.

No one is constantly happy and no one is continuously sad. Having periods of joy and sadness is part of the human experience. It is appropriate to have different feeling at different points in your life. What may be a more appropriate question is: "Are you satisfied with the way you are living your life?" The state of satisfaction you are experiencing is usually more consistent than the feeling of pure happiness.

Tips on life satisfactions

These are just ideas. If you find any of them meaningful, feel free to work with them in your own way.

1. Do something meaningful. It may be with your work,

career, family, hobby, friends, charity, or family. Examine yourself. Do what is necessary for all areas of your life to be equally meaningful.

2. Make good memories. Happy people are generally happy and sad people are generally sad. This is primarily due to memories.

3. Know who you are and know your environment. It is easier to be yourself than to try to be someone else. For example, if you are a gay man with a wife and kids, know that you are a gay man with a wife and kids. Trying to fool yourself into thinking that you are a straight man with a wife, kids and a 20-year relationship with a male lover can be a bit of a strain on the psyche. I am only saying acknowledge who you are to yourself.

4. Accept things as they are. Sometimes we say "This is unacceptable." It's OK to say this in reference to school papers, your children's

behavior or another credit card. However, if you are walking out the door with your intimate other, carrying the basket lunch that you spent all last evening preparing to go on a picnic and it starts raining—accept it.

5. Live in the now. Everything that is happening is happening now. The only things that will ever affect your life is happening now. Your future is built on what you do now. Your past will be made up of what you do now. If you want to change the world, your society, family or just your life it all starts by what you do now.

6. Enjoy the small accomplishments. We are not going to be able to save the world every day. However, last week I fixed a flat tire on my bicycle. This was the first time that I did it successfully. (A secret: big accomplishments are based on lots of small successes.)



Walls

by D. L. Sanders

I was looking over my life and I realized that over my 26 years, I have built so many walls around myself that no one knows the real me: not my parents, my best friend, my close friends and definitely not the people I am intimate with. At first, I really didn't notice the walls; they tend to go up so easily. I'll let someone say something about me where they take a misunderstanding and I let them believe it to be truth. I don't mean to lie, but I figure it's easier than correcting them. I tell friends some things, but hold back the most important part because it would mean letting them get too close. I even tell myself I'm making it easier for others, but I'm really doing it for me.

I really don't want to be dishonest, but it makes my life easier to live. I can't tell people about the first time I had sex because then I'd have to admit that maybe my entire life has been unreal, fake! I think about that time and sometimes it makes tears run down my face. Other times, the thought of picking up that trick because I felt so insecure, makes me want to vomit.

So I either reinvent that moment or edit it out, altogether. I pretend to be intelligent, but I'm only reciting things that I've read and convinced myself that I know, so I can make it believable to everyone else. I pretend to be passionate about issues that I really don't give a flying Fig Newton about. But appearing to be passionate gives me personality. I don't allow people to get too close or allow myself to love anyone

because life has taught me that I can't count on anyone but myself.

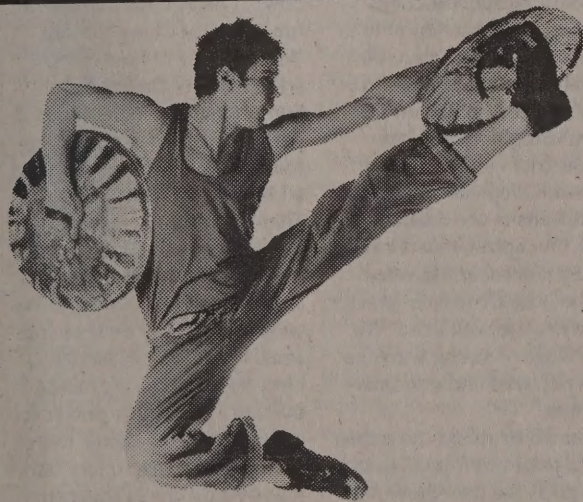
When I was young, I had friends who let me down, but my mind has never let go of that. Instead, I've come to interpret friendship as fleeting closeness, worn thin when people get the full worth of what I have to offer them. I wanted so badly to believe in love but when I discovered things about my parents, I begin to question their love, for themselves and for me. I can never share that with them. Perhaps they would love me even less.

Everyone sees me as a cold, uncaring person that tolerates little and accepts almost nothing. But they don't realize that my fear of rejection has created this mask that I wear day in and day out. I have spent my entire life trying to keep people away because I was so damn afraid they wouldn't like me; or worst of all, that no one would every be able to love me. So far, I haven't been proven wrong. There is no one I trust, completely. People hurt me even when they mean to protect. Yes, I know pain is a part of life, but I've had my share and don't need anymore. I know that love is not real. I know friendships come and go. I understand that life, for most people, is very frustrating. I don't expect to find anyone to fit into my glass slipper.

So, I choose to live my life with my walls. I don't really know when they went up, but I don't think they are capable of coming down. They've had too much reinforcement. Years of pain and anger have padded them for a lifetime.

I know this may sound discouraging but if my parents didn't make me believe from an early age I would live a fairy tale, then maybe my life would be less disappointing. Or maybe it's that no one tells the darker side of the fairy tale.

Within every fairy tale there is a nightmare, because that's what evens out everything and makes the good things even better.



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Coming Out of Darkness:

Seeing the Light

by Sanford E. Gaylord

I had more than 80 men from ages 18 to 80 touch me, hug me, hold me, and tell me they loved me and I never dropped my pants. I looked into their eyes and I saw love. Same-gender-loving men of African decent. Their love was unconditional.

They were phytine. Statuesque warriors. Every shape and size. Afros, shaved heads, dreads, ponytails, buns—some salt and pepper others white with wisdom. Their skin was soft, smooth and silky. Handsome shades of brown: au lait, almond, beige, coffee, caramel and dark roasted chocolate. Arms that were strong as steel yet soft like leather.

Brothas that were on the frontlines of battle. Some of them riddled with the scars of warfare. Haunted by images of manhood from oppressors. Yet they were torch carriers: activist, artists; educators, doctors; lawyers; writers; white and blue-collar workers. We were all students that weekend.

The wisdom of several generations of men, from all walks of the African Diaspora. Various dialects from across the country and abroad. There were brothas's, bristas, fathers, uncles, grandfathers and great-grandfathers. A tribe of warriors. A brotherhood of survivors. My eyes were full with my past, my present, as well as my future. To think I almost missed out on this wonderful opportunity had it not been for a brotho who helped another. The Adodi National Summer Retreat at Camp Ronora in Watervleit, Michigan—Unchained Fire: Gifting the Universe with You.

It is no coincidence I went on the retreat July 17-19. My big brotho Larry once told me "There are no coincidences." I know this is true, for it was shown to me with the remarkable healing and rejuvenating experiences that came out of



that weekend. They will forever be etched into my mind. I was one of many brothas who has heard of Adodi and the Adodi experience. Often, when a brotho tries to dialogue about this experience, it's difficult to explain. This holds especially true after losing your virginity and experiencing one of their renowned retreats. I decided to share a bit of my story, the journey that led to a weekend that touched my spirit and soul.

There is no coincidence that I went on a retreat that was started by a group of men at the height of the AIDS crisis. Initially a peer support group of 12 men met informally at the home of art therapist Clifford Rawlings, in May of 1986. They met weekly and discussed their feelings of isolation as gay Black men; the lack of support services available to them by their families; established institutions and even their own communities. What came out of those discussions was the need to relate their experiences in an effort to cope, to build new communities and ultimately confront their pain and scars.

By October of that year, members participated in a weekend retreat in upstate New York with Brotha's from New York City who had also formed a group. It was during one of the workshops that one of the attendees brought up his concerns as being identified as "Gay." His concern was that the word denoted a lifestyle that he did not experience or condone. The lifestyle of the white male homosexual. He expressed his need for another term that he could utilize in describing himself; the word Adodi was suggested to him at that meeting.

Adodi, is a word derived from the Yoruba language of West Africa. Adodi, the plural form of Ado, describes a man who "loves" another man. They were more than just a description of partners in Africa. The Adodi of the tribe were thought to embody both male and female ways of being and were revered as Shamans, Sages, and leaders.

Following the retreat the group of men adopted the name Adodi Philadelphia and started to organize. Rawlings had a vision that became a reality. His dream continues to grow and touch many brothas through the efforts of brothas who saw the vision and helped shape its future.

Over the years other chapters have formed. Members from the Philadelphia, New York, Washington, D.C. and Chicago committees collectively collaborated on this year's national retreat—with Chicago being the host city. Alden Bell, President of Adodi Chicago, describes Adodi as "a celebration of who we are as Black Gay men. We celebrate because rituals and ceremonies are important for the nurturing of our spirits. Because grief ignored leads to depression, depression unattended leads to the death of our spirits. Our spirits must not die but they must soar. We celebrate because there is no greater tribute to a life well lived. We are a village of strong warriors with a rich past and a promising future."

I planned to attend the retreat months prior but found reasons not to go as the date drew near. I rearranged my schedule to attend after a brotho offered to make it possible for me to attend. Prior to leaving I was feeling a sense of burn out. Living with HIV and working in the field can sometimes become overwhelming. The day before we left I submitted my article for the August issue of BLACKLINES, still thinking about what I wrote and why. I never imagined how my cup would runneth over.

On Friday morning, July 17, I

met the bus that was taking us to Camp Ronora. We met in front of the State of Illinois Building. It was a classy bus full of beautiful brothas. Many knew one another already. Some were famous torch carriers, movers and shakers of Chicago and across the country.

I sat with Byron Stewart, founder of A Real Read who is also my brotho and good friend. The sheer energy on the bus was indescribable. We met our sister bus and other men who drove their own cars at 87th and the Dan Ryan where we picked up our registration packets before leaving. I met Derek Clark from Colorado who rode on our sistah bus—I sensed his aura when he boarded the bus. His voice was deep with resonance and echoed magnetism. He and Boris Powell helped ease any apprehension anyone may have had about going on the retreat by making us feel comfortable and safe.

When we made it to the camp, I flashed back to the last time I was at Camp Ronora. When I came in June of 1996 with Brothers United In Support and thereafter started performing professionally, co-founded A Real Read and started writing for BLACKLINES. There are no coincidences.

After the men alighted from the bus we went into an open clearing and made a circle. We were surrounded by trees, the smell and sound of nature. Over 80 men holding hands, thanking our higher power for a safe trip there. Then a trio of brothas did a celebratory dance followed by one of the members reciting one of my favorite poems, "For My Own Protection" by Essex Hemphill. I found myself reciting the words along with him as I looked around and saw a human chain of handsome men that were of African decent. As I watched I knew that the weekend was going to be a powerful experience.

In Part II October's issue, I will write about the experiences that lead to the healing of my scars, spirit, and my rebirth.

What's The "411"

with Preston L. Shumaker
Smart Advice
with an attitude!



On a Journey to the Past

"Live in my house, I'll be your shelter. Just pay me back with one thousand kisses. Be my [brother] and I'll cover you. Open your door, I'll be your tenant. Don't got much baggage to lay at your feet. But, sweet kisses I've got to spare. I'll be there and I'll cover you. I think they meant it when they say you can't buy love. Now, I know you can rent it, and at least you were my love." — from the hit musical, *Rent*

Dear Readers:

I am writing this edition of What's the 411? with a grieving heart. Webster's Dictionary defines grief as "Deep sadness, as that caused by bereavement: sorrow." I would say that would be an accurate account of my journey. On June 28th, Gay Pride Day, at approximately 7 a.m., the telephone rang atrociously disturbing my sleep. As I managed to stagger to the phone, I muffled a somewhat friendly greeting into the receiver. "Preston, it's Jeff." My heart pounded feverishly. "Ed passed away early this morning." Silence echoed throughout my studio apartment. My eyes started to swell. Edward T. Gregg, one of my best friends, was only 28 years old. I have to be strong, I said quietly to myself. As I began to notify others, a mutual friend told me, Eddie felt that I abandoned him in his time of need. "But ... " I began. Eddie and I had always covered one another. Someone once commented to me, "It matters not if a rock accidentally falls or is pushed directly on you the result remains the same." The truth was I had drifted far from all of my friends including him. I am so

sorry, Eddie. I did let you down. I fought my tears as I continued to notify other friends.

Two weeks later, early one morning, my phone began to ring. I, again, stagger to the phone. "What's up, little brother? It's Kevin." My brother rarely calls me. "Hey, what's up?" I questioned. "Preston, Vickie died this afternoon." My sister, at age 36, succumbed to breast and bone cancer. Ironically, she died of the same illness my mother did, almost two years prior. I had just adjusted to my Mom's death. I stumbled to a nearby wall and glided slowly to the floor. The pressure engulfed my apartment like a raging fire and smothered me. I could not breathe. I failed miserably to prevent the flood of tears that streamed freely down my face. "NO!!!!!! Why!?" I wailed. "Kevin, I really don't know how much more I can take. I've already lost so fucking much this year!! Everything I love, I lose!!," I screamed. The receiver felt light in my fingers. It dropped to the floor as the room started to spin. My body jerked and I continued to sob. I cried for hours every day for nearly two weeks. Alone.

I sit here, I think about the losses in silence. My sister Vickie and I had a chance to spend some time before she passed away. But, Eddie and I didn't have that luxury. How can I sum up his life with a mere 1,000 words? But, I'll try. I pay homage to Eddie because he changed my life in so many ways. Due to devastating personal losses, I simply dropped out of sight for four to five months, just to grieve. And while I did so, Eddie drifted out of my life.

When did I meet Eddie?

When did he pop into my life? My mind flickers flashes of brilliant memories. In September 1994, it was the first Chicago Gay Men's Chorus rehearsal. At the time, four African-Americans stood out among the 100-member chorus. Eddie always believed in making his presence known. He certainly stood out—literally. He was dressed in a laced body suit with leather pants and vest. "Who on Earth is this boy? He's certainly a bold one" I thought. I decided to introduce myself: "Welcome to CGMC! I'm so glad you're here! I'm Preston. What's your name?" "What's up, Boy! I'm Ed. Baby, I'm so glad you came and introduced yourself. I've noticed the chorus doesn't have many people of color." "How did you hear about the chorus?" "Well," he said after rolling his eyes, "I saw one of your little concerts and saw only one Black dot in the sea of white faces. I thought to myself, 'What's wrong with this picture? Where are all the Black folks?' After that, I decided to join to add some more color in the mix!" After much discussion, we soon discovered, we both loved dance, theater, and music. After the conversation, we became inseparable. Some folks in the chorus had no idea of Eddie's talent but they soon discovered it! So, did CGMC's former Artistic Director, Kip Synder. He approached us about developing a skit based on *In Living Color's* Men on ... Series. We eagerly accepted the roles. I wrote the Men on Music script and passed it on to Eddie. He loved it! Soon afterwards, he became Blaine Edwards to my Antoine Merriweather. The 1995 CGMC Christmas Show would never have been the same without him! We were

such a comedic pair.

Furthermore, Eddie believed in being himself. He was a trip, well MORE LIKE A JOURNEY! He kept me in stitches. He became the master of improvisation. He could imitate anyone. He often quoted *The Color Purple*, *The Exorcist*, and *Evita*!! The boy was a Madonna fanatic! I can still see him extending his arms in his hospital bed yelling ... "I'm only a simple woman ... you must love me!" Madonna memorabilia drowned his small apartment. If anyone had a question about her, he could surely answer it! We had battles over who was the best entertainer: JANET or MADONNA. Usually after a half hour of debate, he'd look at me and say "Look, neither one of us are getting paid their dollars. They're laughing all the way to the bank, so let's just drop it! Anyway, I's feel like sangin'!" Eddie said quoting Shug Avery. And could he ever.

He was generous with his time and talent. He was a member of Nu City Gospel Choir, Men of Onyx, and Men Of All Colors Together-Chicago Board of Directors. Those were the times, much laughter and many tears. He was Eddie: sharp tongue, wicked humored, and carefree. He lived his life with such dignity and grace that's envied by many. I will surely miss him.

Mom used to say, "It's better to have loved and lost than to never love at all." She was right. However, it still hurts like hell! Although, my loved ones are no longer in my life, they're forever engraved in my heart. I have precious memories that no one can ever take away.

In retrospect, I still have some regrets concerning many events that occurred in my life recently. Grief is like a dirty little secret, most of us try to disregard. We are expected to grieve in three days and go on with our lives. I must admit, I'm still a bit angry with myself. However, I'm willing to forgive myself but I can't forget. I now

Turn to page 31

PERSONALS

Those who have VOICE following their printed introductions have also left recorded introductions. Dial 1 (900) 454-0101.

Increase your chances of a match: choose PROFILE and BROWSE options in the voice system.

WARNINGS: 1. We no longer accept for print home phone numbers or addresses. 2. Vice officers sometimes respond to suspect ads in an effort to uncover illegal activity. Note: sex-for-money agreements (even if no sex occurs) are illegal.

CODE: ISO = In Search Of

Men

Attractive, articulate, very young looking, sensual GBM, bottom; 40, 5'11", 220#, ISO very masculine, fit, very clean, HIV-, GM top for dating. 30-55, any race. Photo appreciated. Please write: **NLBox 335 (10)**

Sex, romance, discreet attractive top, straight-acting, hot body 5'9", 150#, 31 yr BM, seeks, slim guys under 37 yr (any race). **Lee Pager (312) 216-9101 (10)**

WM. 48, with hot mouth, seeks clean, well hung Black men only. Let me lick, suck, and play with your cock and balls. Will swallow all your sweet cum. Will also lick your feet and ass. **PO Box 663, Matteson, IL 60443 (10)**

Tall, hairy, top seeking Black or Hispanic bot for LTR. Am 40's, 6', 170#, professional, HIV- GWM. Send recent photo. **NLBox 337**

41, Black, USA born male seeks African, Nigerian, or Caribbean born masculine Black male for fun, friendship, and more. (Cab drivers a plus.) Age 30-60. Send letter/phone # to: **Duke, PO Box 408443, Chgo. IL 60640**

Attractive, GBM, 33, cute, muscular, hung and uncut seeks other hung, uncut guys. **Voice 52763 (10)**

GWM, 24, looking for GBM under 28 in shape and attractive. Me: 24, 5'8", 160#, blond hair, blue eyes and attractive. **Voice 52761 (10)**

Slim, attractive GBM, 21, versatile bottom ISO attractive, muscular Black or Latino males, 18-25, y/o for hot fun. **VOICE 52747 (10)**

GBM, 6", 220#, 39, disease free, ISO gay or bi BM, HIV-, 35-50, for friendship, commitments, more. **Voice 52755 (10)**

Hispanic 35 hairy passionate hung looking to meet BM, Hispanics and bears. All have to be hairy, hung, and heavy cummers. Write. I won't disappoint you. **NL Box 313 (9)**

GWM, 37, 5'10", 175#, green eyes, brown hair. ISO new friendship. Maybe more. Variety of interests. Photo appreciated. If interested please write to: **John PO Box 2081, Palatine, IL 60078-2081 (10)**

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Personals

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your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.

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ses—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail).

- If ad ends with NL BOX #, you can only reply by mail. If it ends with Voice #, you can only reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).
- To respond in writing, send letter to the NL/V # or NL BOX # specified at the end of the ad, c/o BLACKLINES, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chgo, IL 60657. Respond to all others as specified at the end of the ad.
- To leave a voice-mail message (\$1.49/min.), use touchtone phone to call 1-800-454-0101. Punch 1 & 5-digit NL/V # or NL Voice # to respond to that ad—or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages. (773) 871-7610 (Tuesdays 9-5 only)

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☐ Nightlines ☐ En La Vida

☐ I Do NOT want voice box #

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1st 20 words, 2 months FREE
Additional words 25¢ ea. \$ _____
MailBox # (\$6 per month) \$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Send to: BLACKLines/Outlines, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

Black men only. Let me lick, suck, and play with your cock and balls. Will swallow all your sweet cum. Will also lick your feet and ass. **PO Box 663, Matteson, IL 60443 (9)**

Attractive, hot, European guy wants to meet cute, nice, smart, Latinos (especially Puerto Ricans) Blacks, Arabs, South Europeans, for good friendship, English, Spanish, German. With Photo Please. **NLBox 317**

GWM, 37, 5'10", 175#, green eyes, brown hair. ISO new friendship. Maybe more. Variety of interests. Photo appreciated. If interested please write to: **John PO Box 2081 Palatine 60078-2081 (9)**

Slim, attractive GBM, 21, versatile bottom ISO attractive, muscular Black or Latino males, 18-25, y/o for hot fun **VOICE 52747 (9)**

GHM, 5'5", 150#, 40 yrs old. All time bottom seeks Black top 6"+ 35 to 50 y/o possible LTR. Serious only. **VOICE 52740 (8)**

I suck Mexicans, all ages. E sus amigos. Also others. **NLBox 311 (9)**

Established, very attractive, good-natured, masculine, 42 y/o, 6', 190 #GPBM seeks LTR with quality, younger (25-35) well built, HIV-, handsome, soft-

spoken, bottom. Photo & phone appreciated. **NLBox 309 (8)**

Endless passion, romance, love and long kisses under the moonlight. Nice looking Mexican 26, 6', 150#, ISO tall skinny Black guy to share dreams and loyal relationship. Can we just try? Serious only. Photo- phone to get answer. **NLBox 307 (8)**

WOMEN

ISO - In Search Of

I take pleasure in life's little treasures: My dog; ice-cream; massages; live music; kisses. Completely self-sufficient, except for the kisses! 25, easy-going, like XRT, Cubs, artsy films, small clubs. Non-smoker, light drinker. In decent shape but not athletic-teach me softball/basketball/tennis? Age, race, weight not important—right attitude is. **NLBox 122 (10)**

Help! I can't find any GBF's in the NW suburbs. Looking for attractive, honest, good-humored girls 33-45 y/o to develop long lasting friendships. Me: 36, kinda cute, kinda fun, kinda shy. Write me so we can chat soon! **NLBox 118 (10)**

Western suburbs. Seeking someone to hand out with.

Movies, talk, meditate. Maybe something more in the future. f interested please write. **NLBox 128 (10)**

Looking for someone special, theoretical interests: Art, travel, relaxation, 100% reciprocity. Practical interests: Dining, working out, writing. I'm attractive, tall, intelligent, affectionate, considerate ISO same in SW/HF. **Voice 52706 (10)**

Help! I can't find any GBF's in the NW suburbs. Looking for attractive, honest, good-humored girls 33-45 y/o to develop long lasting friendships. Me: 36, kinda cute, kinda fun, kinda shy. Write me so we can chat soon! **NLBox 118**

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I have an overnight dinner/ play package. Someone's missing—Are

you a GB/HF, 38+, soft stud-butch, n/s, clean, disease-free? Please write—BF 30+ full figure awaits. **NLBox 108 (9)**

There are so many beautiful Black women out there. But I'm only looking for one. GBF seeks single GBF 28-34. No children, must be intellectual, slim to medium built w/very short hair. Soft touch preferred. **NLBox 92 (11)**

Gay Black attached female, attractive, hot, 36, intelligent, educated, financially secure, non smoker, drinker, or drug user, lots of fun, with many interests, looking for a friends with similarities. Must be attractive over 5 ft, non smoker or drug user to spend free time with, converse and do girl things, etc. Age and race unimportant. **NLBox74 (8)**

Dyky looking feminist Lesbian with sense of adventure and humor, values personal/spiritual growth, intimate conversation, having fun, planning ahead and spontaneity, deep connections and independence (I'm still working on this one) and possesses language for my feelings and process (if an imperfect ability to always use it well), ISO lesbians with similar values/qualities (and others) for friendship, possible dating. **NLBox 90**

MALE MOLESTATION

by Marvin Patterson

The words "rape," "molest," and "incest" conjure up different images of little girls or unsuspecting women being violated by men. Rarely does the image of men being victimized come to mind:

What about Black men like myself, who are sexual abuse survivors? What about the little boys and men who have kept this a secret because they didn't want people to question their sexuality? What about all of the brothers out there who won't talk about the issues because it is a punk thing or a white thing?

Who do we turn to?

Society has many expectations for men and women. These expectations influence our behavior as well as giving way to stereotypes. Based on these stereotypes, it is easier to accept a female being molested by a man. The notion of women being the weaker gender and the misinformation about male molesters being gay makes this an untold story, particularly in the African-American community.

These are just some of the reasons that male victims will continue to suppress these issues.

I was molested repeatedly by my uncle and cousin between the ages of four and 15, in addition to being taken advantage of sexually by men during my teenage years. I trusted no one, including my mother, and believed that if someone was nice to me, it was because he wanted sex. This was confusing for me because I objectified myself and often mixed love and sex, and continued this cycle of abuse by having relationships with people based on what I could do for them sexually.

I questioned my sexuality constantly, not knowing if I was straight or gay. Always



saying to myself "Am I man enough?" or having to show my "male" attributes and accomplishments and always validating my masculinity, because I didn't want people to think I was weak. When I dated women, I briefly broke off the relationship because I felt insecure and that if I opened myself up to her, she'd think I was less of a man. Or assume I was gay.

So, the uncertainty of my sexuality took all my male esteem. I began to isolate myself from my family and friends so that they wouldn't think anything was wrong with me.

That's when I began using drugs. Drugs helped me to block out the nightmares of me being physically and sexually abused. When I drank or did drugs, I could feel good about myself, thinking that I had control, and that it wasn't sexual abuse. But, because I was attractive, and that, after all, it was about time that I got the attention of someone finding me attractive, because at one time I remembered people calling me fat, black, and ugly. Teenage experimentation became a bad alcohol, pot, and (later) crack habit.

As my habit increased so did my depression. It wasn't until I woke up in my bathroom, covered in my vomit and blood, that I realized I was either going to die or survive. I think that was the closest I'd come to having a drug overdose. My head and body ached but God wouldn't allow me to lay in my self-pity and degradation any longer. I got up.

Ending this cycle for me meant cleansing my mind, body, and spirit and confronting my uncle.

While confronting my uncle I learned that he, too, was a victim of incest. It made me even more angry, because I felt he should have known better, but then I began to realize maybe he didn't. Because there is a popular mythology that men who were sexually abused inevitably become abusers themselves. I eventually forgave my uncle, who encouraged me to expound about this issue. Many people may assume it was asinine for forgiving him for what he had done to me. But I realized that if I kept hating him I wouldn't grow as a person. And that I would always feel complacent.

Male molestation is not a straight, gay, Black, white, or economic issue. Research has shown that the majority of men who molest are not necessarily gay, but may have issues of power and control or attachment. Therapeutic approaches are one way of treating this problem for victims and perpetrators. However, perpetrators should be held accountable through the criminal justice system as well as having sex offender-specific treatment.

Sex-offender treatment is necessary for molesters because it provides them with a forum (group therapy) to discuss their issues and ways of managing their behavior. There is a theory that if we only treat victims, the problem will not go away. Society conspires as well as it tolerates males being raped in our criminal justice system. We feel as though, because these criminals have victimized our society, that they should be locked up and the key thrown away. I agree that they should be held accountable for their actions. However, I hear too many people say in a comical statement that they're going to bust in the ass. Or that's what he gets for killing that woman—being

raped in jail. No one deserves to be raped. Because if we allow the criminal system to take justice into its own hands then we're right back where we started—with a problem.

If a young man who is 18, sold drugs, got busted, and went to jail, he may very well get raped in jail, and at the same time this may help stimulate this criminal to become a rapist or molester. He is still a man. See, we all need to take all of these elements into consideration. And it can't be done unless we quit blaming each other. We must first get to the issue and bring awareness to both victims and perpetrators.

HEALTH from 29

live with such urgency and try to make amends with the past. As a result, I'm no longer so damn selfish with my time.

If I could offer any advice, pick up the telephone and tell your Lover, Mother, Brother, Sister, or Friend how much you care for them before it's too late. Then, prove it by spending quality time with them while they're still here! I LOVE YOU. These three words are so sweet yet so simple. If you're angry with them, try to forgive them, and move on. I have learned the hard way, regret is an ugly horrific companion whom I wouldn't wish upon anyone. Take it from someone who knows and has suffered tremendously. Like Dr. Maya Angelou has said many times, "I did what I thought was right at the time. Now that I know better, I can do better."

Sleep in heavenly peace, Eddie & Vickie. We will be together again. Til then, Mom will watch over you both. Thank you for my journey to the past, you're home at last. I Love You, Preston. Take care of yourselves and each other, readers.

Questions? Comments? Please e-mail me at PrestonMSW@aol.com.

Leather Scene

A White Thang

by Cain Berlinger

"It's a white thang" One brother responded when I mentioned the importance of placing our personal history among those of the Leather Archives and Museum. A few years ago, attending the Castro Street fair in San Francisco, I came upon a booth sponsored by a well-known bear magazine hawking its latest calendar. I was incensed that there were no bears of color represented. I took my concerns to the Internet and was told to put up or shut up!

Following this warm advice I sent pics of myself to the leading three bear mags. One magazine folded, another gave no response, the third presented me to the public as 'our first black bear.'

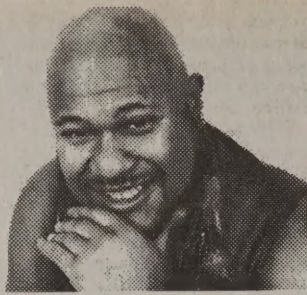
The point of the story is that if I hadn't gone to the publishers, they wouldn't have come to me. Consequently, I received many e-mails of support especially from brothers complaining of too little people of color coverage in the gay community.

In a recent community workshop, the topic was "How do we get more POC's to our events." It was an effort by community leaders to include diversity in our ranks. Do we need a special invitation to take part in our community?

Being POC's with similar dreams, and visions, is enough incentive to stand alongside our community and share our ideas without fear that we will be ignored or unwelcome.

Involvement is essential not only to our growth as a people but to gay community growth. Our varied lifestyles, and cultural experiences are as valuable to teaching others about our diversity and contributions as it is to providing encouragement for future generations of culturally diverse gays.

Being gay fetishists is not only about our sexual lives but securing those freedoms and being counted among those instrumental in insuring that those freedoms are kept through community interaction. We are shar-



ing our intelligence, personal development and support through nurturing, not just in the community but as part of the community. If our only contribution is the perpetuation of sexual myths and stereotypes than we are doomed to be forever seen in that light.

Popular media is fond of asking the question "Where are the POC role models coming from?" If we do not make our presence in the board rooms, in community meetings, event planning, then we have no right to complain about invisibility.

For years, I was often the only POC at many community events, and because of that singular presence, I was often singled out as the only possible variance that might have been different from those views expressed around me. Today POC's have taken visible positions in the gay community, founding leadership clubs, outreach to other POC's, chairs on boards, winning titles, becoming an inspiration to those previously reluctant to come forward. Community spirit is not a white thing, it's a people thing.

THY CUP RUNNETH OVER

The Transsexual Movement

by Lynnell
Stephanie Long

"Today the question is not whether we shall be free but by what course we will win." — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I have a confession to make. I once interviewed a transsexual but didn't like the way the interview went and never turned it in. During the interview the person I was interviewing constantly referred to him or herself as a man. I was confused. I thought all transsexuals are/were women.

Well, after two years I realize how much I matured and I now

know why I did what I did. Shame. Well that's my confession and life goes on right? Well, maybe not. There are some things I don't understand. One is straight women. I mean, why would some women want to waste their time on some musty, insecure man is beneath me. Secondly, I don't understand why some young men walk around with their pants hanging off their ass. It looks ridiculous and stupid. Thirdly, why, when you start dating someone, their ex gets jealous and all of a sudden wants them back? Let me tell all ex's, "LET GO!" If they wanted you, you wouldn't be an ex.

Last but not least, I don't understand some transsexuals.

After being told I wasn't allowed to visit a "womyn-born-womyn" organization, I was very upset. Well, I'm over it now. But because of that incident there were a lot of transsexual women that were upset and disapproved of what I did. What did I do? Stand up for MY rights. It appears some transsexuals do not consider themselves women at all. Well, after visiting Tri-Ess, an organization for white suburban men who dress in drag once a month, I can say I agree. They are not women. Most are cigar-smoking lawyers & doctors who have a fetish with women's clothing. They are Cross-Dressers or Transvestites, not women. But because they are not women, that doesn't make what they are doing wrong, just confusing as hell—for me.

Another transsexual asked me, "Why did you use Martin Luther King Jr's name?" Dr. King didn't take a stand for some of us, he took a stand for all of us. King has been and will be my hero. Rosa Parks fought for me too and I refuse to sit in the back of the bus. I refused to be told what to do or where to go.

I think it's understood that I do not represent the entire transgendered community. Not all of us want to be treated and respected as women. Not all of us consider ourselves women. Some call themselves "queens." Queens? After hearing several transsexual women refer to themselves as queens, I asked what that means. They told me all transsexuals are queens. That Transsexuals are roy-



alty and should be treated as such. Although I will never consider myself a queen, I liked her definition.

There is a lot happening in the Transgendered community. TIME magazine recently had a positive article about transsexuals and transgendered activists. Lorraine S. Baskerville of TransGenesis held the first fundraiser by an African-American transsexual woman at "All Jokes Aside" hosted by Flame Monroe. Now Flame Monroe is in a class all by herself. Sure there are many Female Illusionists, but only one Diva like Flame. Only one African-American, Female Illusionist/Comedian/ TalkShow Personality (WGCI)/ Actress. Yes the girl is working it and will tell you in a minute to kiss her ass, on the pink.

Then there's me, but of course you have heard enough about me. That's why I'm changing my writing style. I've been writing for BLACKLINES for two years now. I'm sure by now you know that I am a TS Leather/ SM Dyke, Poet, Playwright, Photographer, Activist, member & Transgendered Component Director of "A Real Read." If you don't, I suggest you go to Lambda Publications (1115 W. Belmont, 2nd Fl) and get some past issues because I'm getting tired of talking about me. My cup isn't the only one that runneth over. So much is happening in the Transgendered community that's not being reported. Well, I am going to try my hand at reporting. So if there is anything going on that involves the transgendered community, tell me. In fact, if you want people to know about it, I'm your girl! You can e-mail me direct or mail a letter to Lambda Publications. If it's worth having, it's worth reporting!

E-mail TSReporter@aol.com

CLASSIFIEDS

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HELP WANTED

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a leading lesbian/gay and HIV/AIDS legal advisory organization, seeks full-time administrative assistant or legal secretary for 7-person Midwest Office. Must have excellent clerical skills (including WordPerfect 7.0), telephone and filing and preferably legal secretarial or paralegal background. Intake, database and/or online experience a plus. Compensation: from mid-\$20s DOE. Excellent benefits. Rolling deadline. Resume and references ASAP to **Patricia M. Logue, ILDEF, 11 E. Adams, Suite 1008, Chicago, IL 60603.** (9/98)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. Crossroads Fund seeks Executive Director. Funds Chicago area grassroots organizations. Postmark Deadline: Sept. 4. People of color, LGBT and women encouraged to apply. Application information: Crossroads Fund, **(773) 227-7676.** (9/98)

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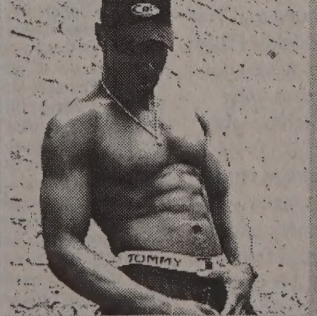
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World View: World Wide Web

by Andrew Davis

Engine Trouble

From time to time I'm asked how specific items can be found faster on the Net when people use a search engine (e.g., Yahoo! or Infoseek). Although I've given some tips in the past, I'm more than happy to reiterate (and even add to) those hints: 1) Look out for search terms with more than one meaning—and considering most words in our language can have multiple meanings, that task could be trickier than you think. 2) Be precise. For instance, try "carburetor repairs" instead of "car repairs." 3) Even if you feel you can't be that precise, use search engines to refine as you go along. 4) Don't necessarily assume that the big ones are the best. (I'm talking about search engines, naturally.) 5) Master Boolean logic. It utilizes the operators "and," "or," and "not" to narrow your searches. (For example, "Denzel

Washington" or "Antonio Banderas" finds all pages that mention either while putting "and" between the two locates pages that include both of them. However, "Denzel Washington" and "Antonio Banderas" not "Chris Rock" finds pages with the first two but not the third—although I can't think of any site that would group the three together, anyway...)

Happy searching!!!

Andrew's Picks:

1. Chakalates!
(<http://www.chakalates.com>): Check out "Ain't Nobody" diva Chaka Khan's selection of saleable delectables. Proceeds benefit her foundation for "women and children in crisis."
2. In the Name of "Civil Rights"
(<http://www.concentric.net/~issues/namecivl.sht>): Are you ready for some controversy? Then, take a peek at Elizabeth Wright's diatribe on why Blacks should not align themselves with the "homosexual lobby." (Not pretty...)

Let me know what's on your mind!
Contact me at gemin1@nwu.edu.

Body & Soul book

With an introduction by writer and model Veronica Webb and comments by fashion and media luminaries, **BODY & SOUL: The Black Male Book** (Universe; 144 pages; 125 illustrations/50 in color; \$27.50 paperback; \$45.00 hardcover; August 1998 by Duane Thomas) is an unprecedented, visual tribute to Black men and their role in style and culture.

"There's so much negativity surrounding young Black men that it's refreshing and exciting to see this change take place. I wanted to create a book to document that progress and allow America to see African-American men in a new light," states author Duane Thomas. As Veronica Webb explains in her introductory essay, there have always been images of Black men in the media. At first they were rooted in racial ignorance and paranoia—images of servants, deviants and urban "savages." In the 1960s the image changed because the world at large and Black men in particular began to consciously put forth a positive portrayal.

James Brown was telling the world "Say it loud! I'm Black and I'm Proud"

and slogans such as "Black is Beautiful" abounded. By the 1980s the media had slowly opened up to newer more real portraits of Black men. Today's images of Black men are as diverse as the men themselves: from NBA's bad boy Dennis Rodman to actor Cuba Gooding.

A celebration of today's black men's style and beauty, **BODY & SOUL** highlights such 90s icons as: athletes Dennis Rodman, Michael Olajide, Allan Houston, and Roy Jones, Jr.; musicians Seal, Sean "Puffy" Combs, D'Angelo, Maxwell, Bryce Wilson and Wyclef Jean; models Tyson Beckford, Richard Elms and Jason Olive and actors Djimon Hounsou, Gary Dourdan, Chris Rock, Shemar Moore, and Mekhi Phifer.

Many of the photographs were shot exclusively for this project and were photographed by the top fashion photographers in the industry.

Thomas is partner in a design studio specializing in producing creative realizations for fashion and beauty advertising clients. He is founder of the New York based magazine NOIR. He is a former freelance designer for IN STYLE, VOGUE, ESSENCE, ESQUIRE and DETAILS.

F.Y.I. Resources

Predominantly Black Gay Clubs

CLUB ESCAPE, M.W.D. 1530 E. 75th St.	773-667-6454
CLUN INTA'S 308 W. Erie, Girls Night Thurs.	312-664-6595
CLUB INTIMUS (only Sat. 9p-3a)	
312 W. Randolph, W.D.V.	312-901-1703
GENERATOR 306 N. Halsted, D, MW	312-243-8889
JEFFERY PUB 7041 S. Jeffrey, MW, D, 4	773-363-8555
CLUBHOUSE AT CONVENT MW,D.	
1529 Armitage, MONDAYS 11p-4a	773-395-8660
K.C. Productions at Cotton Club, Sundays	312-341-9787
1710 S. Michigan, open til 4 a.m., shows	
THE VIX: A Jazz Supperclub, 2814 N. Halsted	
MW,D,R,G,S	773-529-3999

OTHER Clubs OF INTEREST

BERLIN 954 Belmont, MW, V, 4, S	773-348-4975
BIG CHICKS 5024 N. Sheridan, S/G, WM, 11a-2a/3a Sa	773-728-5511
BUDDIES' REST/BAR 3301 Clark, MW, R	773-477-4066
CHICAGO EAGLE, M,L, 5015 N. Clark	773-728-0050
CLUB INTA'S 308 W. Erie, Women Thurs., Men Sun.	312-664-6595
CIRCUIT 3641 N. Halsted, Salsa, etc.	773-325-2233
FUSION 3631 N. Halsted, MW, V, D, E, 4	773-975-6622
GIRLBAR, 2625 N. Halsted, W,D	773-871-4210
LITTLE JIM'S 3501 N. Halsted, M, 4	773-871-6116
MAN'S COUNTRY 5017 N. Clark, M, B	773-878-2069
MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE	773-477-8362
ROSCOE'S 3354-6 N. Halsted, MW, D, V, E, Cafe	773-281-3355
SIDETRACK 3349 N. Halsted, M, V	773-477-9189
SPIN, Halsted & Belmont, MW, D	773-327-7711
TEMPTATIONS 10235 W. Grand, Franklin Park, W, D,V, E, 4, (5a Fri/Sat)	847-455-0008

Resources

AA/Newtown Alano Club	773-529-0321
Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays	773-493-3848
Adodi African-American men	312-458-9584
Affinity, creating a South Side community center	
P.O. Box 496002, Chicago, IL 60649	312-409-7609
African American Womyn's Alliance	
P.O. Box 198573, Chgo 60619-8573	773-731-0279
A Real Read—African-American Lesbian/Trans Performers	
www.uic.edu/orgs/arealread	312-409-2457
BLACKLINES, Lambda Pub./OUTLINES	
1115 W. Belmont, #2-D, 60657 (FAX 773-871-7609)	773-871-7610
outlines@subs.com http://www.subs.com/~outlines/	
Brother 2 Brother Chicago BRO2BROCHI@aol.com	
P.O. Box 496024, Chicago 60649	
BROTHERS C.A.N. (Community Awareness Network)	
Programming	773-752-7867
Brothers United Together HIV+ men/Afric Descent	773-752-7867
Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays,	
P.O. Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181	312-409-4917
Lakeside Pride Freedom Band	773-434-6099
Church of the Open Door FAX (773) 778-0178	773-778-3030
Black lesbian/gay/trans/heterosexual Church, 5954 S. Albany	
The Committee, 2300 N. Clybourn, #32, 60614 773-235-0285	
GAMBA: Discussion for men of African Descent	773-752-7867
Greater Chicago Committee, P.O. Box 146642, 60614-6642	
Healthline 312-661-9153, prevent. 773-674-0429	312-670-9660
Harambe Jahard Suburban Afric.-Amer. BI/GayMen	708-445-2584
Horizons Community Services	773-929-HELP
Howard Brown Health Center	773-388-1600
Imani Umoja, Chicago Afric.-Amer BI/Gay men	773-907-8993
Last House on the Block G&L in recovery	773-373-0024
Lesbian Community Cancer Project	773-561-4662
Les Femmes Amies	312-232-0787
Men of All Colors Together/Chicago, PO Box	
408922, 60640-8922	312-409-6916
Minority Outreach Intervention Proj, FAX 312-986-0928	
1255 S. Wabash, Suite 2-S, 60605	312-986-0661
National Black L&G Leadership Forum	202-483-6786
Onyx/Chicago leather/men, 1340 Irving, #188, 60613	
PAC Social Club, South Side for mature lesbians	
of African Descent, PACSOCIAL@aol.com	
Phraserity parties for all lesbians and gays	312-409-6637
Roseland Community Hospital	773-995-6469
Stop AIDS/African American Program	
1718 E. 75th St., 60649	773-752-7867
Test Positive Aware/Brothers United in Support	773-404-8726
Toussaint Brothers of Illinois	847-825-7263
TransGenesis trans support	312-839-5541
United Faith Affinitas, Black L/G/B, 1448 E. 53rd	773-878-7839
Women of All Colors Together	773-267-0976, (708) 869-9120
Writers Collective—gay, trans, lesbians of color	312-409-2457

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744-5464**

**Near Southside
1306 S. Michigan
747-0103**

**Mid South
641 W. 63rd
747-0282**

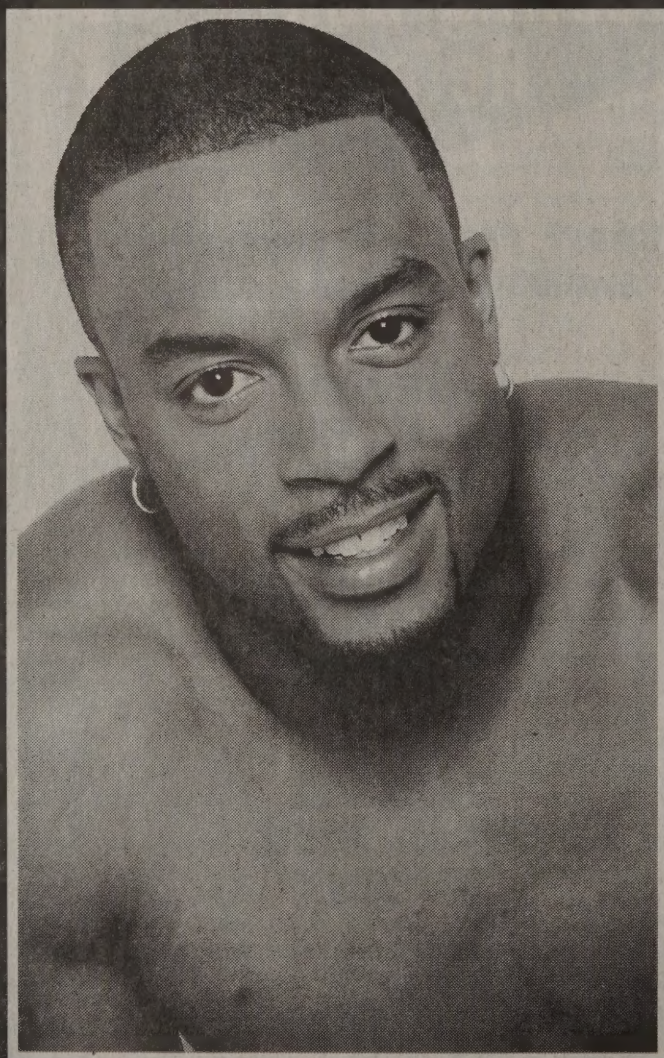
**Roseland
200 E. 115th
747-2817**

For more information contact
the Chicago Department of Health
312-747-AIDS (TDD 744-2960)
Also available are health educators and
HIV/AIDS educational materials.
City of Chicago, Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Brothers C.A.N.

Community Awareness Network

An HIV Prevention Program for African-American Gay & Bisexual Men



GAMBA

A men's discussion group for gay and bisexual men. Meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month.

Wednesday, September 9, 7-9 p.m.

Faces on the Screen:

Images of Black Gay Men

Wednesday, September 23, 7-9 p.m.

Can I have your hand in marriage?

Committment for Brothers

For information on

BROTHERS CAN Groups,

call **773.752.7867**

located at 1718 East 75th Street Office

HOWARD BROWN
HEALTH CENTER

